



Droplet Computing Enables Secure Delivery of Oxford University Mission Critical Legacy Applications

CUSTOMER:

University of Oxford,
Social Sciences Division

SECTOR:

Education

REGION:

EMEA, United Kingdom

USERS:

5,000

WEBSITE:

<https://www.socsci.ox.ac.uk/>

BACKGROUND:

Oxford University Social Sciences Division (OSSD) represents one of the largest groupings of social scientists in the world.

Their research combines rigorous and innovative quantitative methodologies and theoretical approaches using individual and collective experiences and actions.

The Times Higher Education University Rankings placed the University of Oxford as number one in the world for Social Sciences in 2018 and 2019. Richard Kemble is the IT Manager supporting the division and its 5,000 students.

THE CHALLENGE:

The analytical and data processing applications that OSSD use are deemed legacy, in as much as they do not run on modern Windows operating systems and are not cross platform.

One of the key applications does have a Mac version, however, it only has 20% of the functionality that the Window version does. Given that many students attend university with a Mac, Mr. Kemble and his team had the challenge to seek a solution whereby the applications could be delivered securely to any end point device, regardless of the operating system.

“Droplet Computing has enabled Oxford University Social Sciences Division to simplify the delivery of our application estate. We are confident our applications are now delivered securely and maintain functionality across platforms and devices.

Droplet Computing has saved OSSD significant costs by reducing admin overheads, infrastructure costs and maintenance and support contracts for previous solutions.”

Richard Kemble, IT Manager OSSD





Centralized cloud delivery,
local execution



Application Portability



Run Non-native apps



Enhanced end user
experience

THE CHALLENGE:

During the past few years, OSSD has used various methods to deliver applications; including Citrix, VMware Fusion, VMware View, Parallels, Jukebox and Software2.

These solutions brought different challenges into the equation, such as Windows on Windows devices only, poor performance on Mac, high costs and quantity of necessary infrastructure to run these solutions, along with time consuming and lengthy application packaging and delivery requirements.

Therefore, OSSD required a solution that could enable a more mobile, flexible working model that could embrace a student BYOD policy and that would decrease the admin overhead of supporting their legacy applications on multiple operating systems, which included individual scripting requirements to deliver the applications.

THE SOLUTION:

The four main apps that Mr. Kemble needs to deliver are:

- Stata – Statistical software for data science
- ArcGIS – Desktop Geographic Information System
- NVivo – Qualitative data analysis
- IBM SPSS Statistics - Interactive statistical analysis

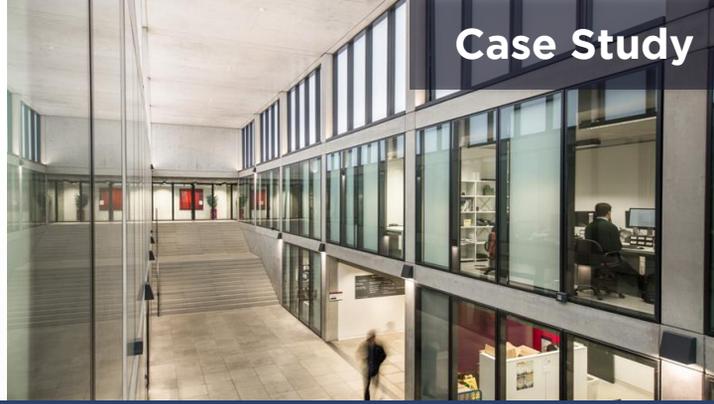
These applications are pivotal to the OSSD work and are not just in their faculties but also in universities across the world and the research, analysis and data garnered from them is shared globally.

Working with Droplet Computing channel partner MSS UK, who was instrumental in the introduction and deployment of Droplet Computing, Mr. Kemble embarked on a proof of concept and determined that Droplet Computing containers were an ideal solution.

“Given that our students turn up to class with a variety of their own devices, we needed a solution that would enable us to deliver these critical applications regardless of the device or operating system students use”

Richard Kemble, IT Manager OSSD





THE SOLUTION:

"The fact that we no longer have to script each individual application for each single device our students may, or may not, bring to class is a huge benefit to us. Plus, I no longer need to know, or care, what those devices are!" stated Mr. Kemble.

THE BENEFITS:

Droplet Computing containers has enabled OSSD to create one delivery mechanism to deliver every single app they have and deploy via MobileIron. Plus, allows them to provide consistency of full functionality of Windows applications across different devices.

This simplification has resulted in significant cost savings and frees up Mr. Kemble and his team to continue to innovate within their IT department.

Due to the isolation architecture of the Droplet Computing container means Mr. Kemble is confident his applications are now being delivered securely.



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