

CASE STUDY

THE NEVADA JOINT UNION HIGH SCHOOL

The Nevada Joint Union High School District is located in northern California about 60 miles northeast of Sacramento. The district is located in Grass Valley, in the Sierra Nevada foothills, a small community with a rich history of the Gold Rush. Nevada County has nine elementary/middle school districts feeding into the high school, which provides secondary education to 4,300 students through a variety of schools and programs. The mission of the Nevada Joint Union High School District is to provide all students with the educational opportunities that will empower them to reach their full potential and prepare them for work and lifelong learning.

Challenge: Floppy Disks Were Inefficient to Store Student Work

The IT team at the Nevada Joint Union High School District (NJUHSD) supports three high schools in the district, serving approximately 5,000 students, teachers and administrators. Previously, students in the district would use floppy disks to store their homework, term papers and projects, especially as teachers were assigning homework in PowerPoint and other multimedia methods. Floppy disks would get easily damaged or lost and computer technicians at each of the high schools would spend a large portion of their time trying to recover lost or damaged data on student's floppy disks. Teachers in the district also complained that students could not save large assignments on a floppy disk.

As a result, the IT team at Nevada Joint Union High School District, decided to look for a safer and easier web-based method for students to store their files. Of utmost importance was a solution that would be easy to install and maintain because of the IT team's limited resources.



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UNION HIGH SCHOOL

Key Facts

Industry: K-12 Education

Product: Xythos Digital Locker

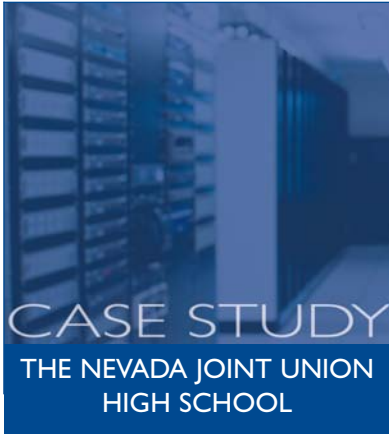
Audience: Students and
Teachers

Benefits

- Eliminated the use of floppy disks
- Freed IT to focus on other issues
- Allows administrators to back up important data

Why Xythos?

- Low maintenance costs
- Web-based, intuitive interface
- Open standards-based



“We chose Xythos because its ongoing maintenance costs were significantly less than other solutions. We have a limited team serving thousands of students in our school district and we needed an efficient system that students could use on their own without needing a lot of hand-holding from IT.”

Curtis Smith

Director of IT
Nevada Joint Union High
School District

After reviewing several vendors' applications, the IT team chose the Xythos Digital Locker because it was easy and intuitive enough for students to use and required minimal training and support from IT. Students could create their own accounts and the NJUHSD IT staff did not have to maintain them. Xythos was also secure enough to protect confidential student information because of its file-level access control, allowing students to easily create personal and project-based workspaces without compromising overall system security.

Students and Faculty Have Web-Based Storage, Reducing IT Burden

Led by Curtis Smith, the Director of IT, the Xythos implementation was completed within a couple of days and it was introduced to the district's largest high school in August of 2004. Smith's team later modified the Xythos user interface to incorporate the district's logo and colors. After the initial roll-out proved successful, Xythos was deployed to the rest of the district's high schools.

Students are each given 20 MB of online file storage and can now safely access and store their homework, class projects and other personal information within the Digital Locker. Now students can continue working on their assignments from the computer lab, at home or anywhere else that is convenient for them. As a result, floppy disks have been eliminated and the District's lab technicians are freed to focus on other issues. In the future, school administrators plan to use Xythos to back-up all of their important data and files.

“We chose Xythos because its ongoing maintenance costs were significantly less than other solutions. We have a limited team serving thousands of students in our school district and we needed an efficient system that students could use on their own without needing a lot of hand-holding from IT,” said Curtis Smith, Director of IT. “That system was Xythos. With Xythos, our primary challenge of using floppy disks to store student work has been solved, freeing our IT team to focus on other issues.”

**For more information please call 1.888.4XYTHOS
or visit www.xythos.com**