FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY CONNECTS RESEARCHERS TO RESOURCES WITH COMCAST BUSINESS

COMCAST BUSINESS

10 GBPS COMCAST BUSINESS ETHERNET PRIVATE LINE ENABLES MULTI-CAMPUS COLLABORATION AND LARGE DATA TRANSFERS

Public Institution of Higher Learning Revolutionizes Research for Students

Founded in 1964, Florida Atlantic University (FAU), is a research-driven institution with 30,000+ students and more than 180 degree programs. Including its main campus in Boca Raton, Florida, the university has six campus locations throughout the state, including Dania Beach, Fort Lauderdale, Davie, Harbor Branch, and Jupiter.

The university's Division of Research is a key competitive differentiator for FAU, offering extensive resources and tools to faculty and students conducting research, forging innovations, and advancing science and technology in all disciplines – across FAU's campuses and with the broader academic community. FAU offers a number of different fields of research for students and faculty, including anthropology, humanities, business, education, engineering and computer science, medicine, science, and marine sciences, including its renowned Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute.

"Ever since Florida Atlantic University opened its doors with a dedication ceremony from President Lyndon B. Johnson, it has been committed to providing excellent education to students and incredible research and discoveries to the world," noted Mehran Basiratmand, Chief Technology Officer at Florida Atlantic University.

Lack of Connectivity Between Campuses Impedes Collaboration

FAU's extensive research program allows students and faculty to come together to collaborate and share information for big discoveries and breakthroughs in the humanities, science and medicine fields, among others. But without reliable network connectivity and sufficient capacity to facilitate massive data transfers between its major research campuses, students and faculty at FAU were unable to share research, data, and analysis from one campus location to another.

"Research is a key part of education for any university because it provides the foundation for learning and discovery. At FAU, it's a major part of our culture, and we provide significant resources to our students and faculty so they can advance research in a number of fields," added Basiratmand.

SITUATION

- Research-focused public university in South Florida
- 30,000+ students
- 180+ degree programs
- Six campus locations

CHALLENGE

- Limited connectivity between campuses and data center inhibits access to research tools and resources

SOLUTION

- Comcast Business Ethernet Private Line

RESULTS

- Scalable 10 Gbps connections enable cross-campus research and collaboration, as well as collaboration with other educational facilities

Specifically, both the main campus and Harbor Branch campus needed to be connected to the campus data center, located in Jupiter, to promote campus-wide collaboration and allow FAU to work with other universities and share important findings – which also enabled them to recruit top student and faculty talent.

FAU Fosters Knowledge-sharing Across Campuses with Comcast Business Ethernet Dedicated Internet

After receiving a federal grant to install multi-gigabit connections between its three largest research facilities, FAU turned to Comcast Business. Comcast Business installed 10 gigabits per second (Gbps) Ethernet Private Line (EPL) connection to securely link FAU's Boca Raton campus to its Jupiter location (where its data center is housed) over 150 miles away. It also installed another 10 Gbps EPL connection between its Jupiter and Harbor Branch campuses, which are over 50 miles apart.

"Working with Comcast Business has been a great experience. Not only is the product reliable and high-performance, but the customer service team and their agility and resolve to deliver services in a timely manner has been outstanding," commented Basiratmand.

The 10 Gbps EPL connections allow for students and faculty working at either the Jupiter, Harbor Branch, or Boca Raton campuses to securely access and transmit data across a private high-performance network. Students and faculty can now easily share and collaborate on research activities across fields of study, like oceanography, both within the FAU network, and with other universities. The 10 Gbps connections are capable of supporting data transfers, uploads, and downloads of bandwidth-intensive research files.

"With the connection between our campuses and the capacity to handle bandwidth-intensive research, we've been able to attract even more top talent to our university to participate in our leading research programs," said Basiratmand.

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