

Education | Saudi Arabia

Establishing a cyber resilient platform for e-learning

Umm Al-Qura University

To help it deliver excellent learning experiences, Umm Al-Qura University refreshed hundreds of endpoint devices with Lenovo ThinkCentre and Lenovo ThinkPad solutions, combined with real-time monitoring and cyber resilience capabilities from Lenovo ThinkShield and Absolute Secure Endpoint.



Lenovo

Lenovo
ThinkShield

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Customer background

Who is Umm Al-Qura University?

Established in 1981 through a royal decree, Umm Al-Qura University has origins reaching back to 1949. Located in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, the university offers a diverse range of graduate and undergraduate programs, including Shari'ah, Arabic language, education, social and applied sciences, medicine, and engineering.

With approximately 30,000 students enrolled at its main campus in Mecca and more than 20,000 distributed across campuses in five cities along the Red Sea coast, the university continues to broaden its academic offerings to meet the evolving needs of society and contribute to the national development of Saudi Arabia.



2 The challenge

As a multi-campus institution with a comprehensive and dynamic curriculum, Umm Al-Qura University aims to harness the latest digital technology to help deliver outstanding learning experiences for every student.

Dr. Atif M. Alhejali, Dean of Information Technology and E-Learning at Umm Al-Qura University, explains: “As part of our digital transformation effort, we decided to refresh endpoint devices across our campuses: including desktops, laptops, and detachable tablets. The aim was to offer seamless access to key applications, including our learning management systems, student information systems, and administrative platforms.”

2 The challenge

With cyber threats on the rise, Umm Al-Qura University wanted to ensure robust protection for all new devices. “We have multiple remote campuses in addition to our main site in Mecca, and we wanted to protect our devices wherever they were located,” confirms Dr. Alhejali.

“We set out to find a partner that could provide us with robust, reliable, and performant devices. At the same time, we looked for an effective way to monitor and protect the new endpoints against cyber threats.”

Dr. Atif M. Alhejali

Dean of Information Technology and E-Learning,
Umm Al-Qura University

Selecting a high- performance, cyber resilient solution

Working with Lenovo and Absolute, Umm Al-Qura University refreshed its entire device estate with modern, high-performance hardware, backed by real-time monitoring and security capabilities.

The new environment is based on Lenovo ThinkCentre M70s and M80s and Lenovo ThinkPad L14 and X12 solutions, combined with Lenovo ThinkShield to detect and protect against BIOS-level attacks and Absolute Secure Endpoint to deliver cyber resilience across endpoints and applications.

Hardware

Lenovo ThinkCentre M70s Gen 3
Lenovo ThinkCentre M80s Gen 3
Lenovo ThinkPad L14 Gen 3 and Gen 4
Lenovo ThinkPad X12 Detachable

Software

Lenovo ThinkShield
Absolute Secure Endpoint

Services

Lenovo Asset Tagging Services
Lenovo Custom BIOS Service
Lenovo Premier Support

3 The solution

Lenovo's Asset Tagging service helps Umm Al-Qura University reduce the risk of loss or theft, while Premier Support provides advanced technical support 24x7x365 for both hardware and software from Lenovo elite engineers, priority on parts, as well as next business day onsite service when required.

3 The solution

Protecting endpoints in any location

Lenovo and Absolute offered Umm Al-Qura University a comprehensive solution, including the delivery and configuration of endpoint devices and ongoing security and monitoring capabilities.

“The Lenovo and Absolute team carried out an in-depth proof of concept to help assess and address our cybersecurity requirements,” says Dr. Alhejali. “This approach has enabled us to implement tailored solutions to enhance data protection and user security. We’ve done more than strengthen our overall cybersecurity posture—we’ve set a new benchmark for government-sector cybersecurity projects in Saudi Arabia.”

With high-performance devices from Lenovo, Umm Al-Qura University delivers high-quality experiences for its students, faculty, and staff. And with Absolute Secure Endpoint solutions, the organization can remotely track all its devices—even when disconnected from the school network.

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“We’ve enjoyed a close collaboration with Lenovo and Absolute throughout the deployment project, and **we’re delighted with the performance and security of the new Lenovo devices.**”

Dr. Atif M. Alhejali

Dean of Information Technology and E-Learning, Umm Al-Qura University

4 The results

Umm Al-Qura University has equipped users across all its sites with access to modern devices, so that they can harness the latest digital technology. This helps to provide every student with an outstanding education. Thanks to the comprehensive security features of Lenovo ThinkShield and Absolute Secure Endpoint, the university has full visibility of emerging security risks, helping it to safeguard users.

“Our work with Lenovo and Absolute is empowering us to deliver a resilient digital learning environment for our thousands of students,” states Dr. Alhejali.



Delivers modern, high-performance devices



Enables real-time endpoint monitoring



Boosts security and strengthens compliance

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“We have found our Lenovo devices to be **very reliable and easy to use**. And with **fine-grained, real-time insights** from Absolute, it’s very straightforward to maintain compliance with our stringent security policies.”

Dr. Atif M. Alhejali

Dean of Information Technology and E-Learning, Umm Al-Qura University

Why Lenovo and Absolute?

Umm Al-Qura University was looking for proven hardware with comprehensive, reliable, and user-friendly endpoint security capabilities. By partnering with Lenovo and Absolute, the organization found a solution that met all its selection criteria.

“Given the scale of our institution, which includes a vast number of desktops, laptops, and other computing devices, there’s an ever-present risk of unauthorized access, loss, or theft,” explains Dr. Alhejali. “With Lenovo ThinkShield protecting our devices at the BIOS level and Absolute Secure Endpoint protecting our operating systems and apps, we have total peace of mind when it comes to information security.”

How can universities deliver cyber resiliency and performance for all users?

Working with Lenovo and Absolute, Umm Al-Qura University has refreshed all endpoints across its campuses with modern, safeguarded devices.

Explore Lenovo ThinkShield