Washburn University equips faculty and staff with next-gen Lenovo devices

Washburn University

To give everyone on its campuses access to the digital tools they need to thrive, Washburn University partnered with Lenovo Financial Services. By switching from costly capital procurement to cost-effective leasing, Washburn can deliver brand-new devices to its users every five years.

Who is Washburn University?

Located in the heart of Topeka, Kansas, Washburn University, including Washburn Institute of Technology, welcomes more than 7,000 students each year. Publicly funded, independently governed, and state coordinated, Washburn University offers more than 200 courses of study with a 15:1 student/faculty ratio.

WASHBURN
UNIVERSITY

2 The challenge

At Washburn University, technology plays a vital role in the student experience. John Haverty, Chief Information Officer at Washburn, explains: "IT underpins practically everything we do: from controlling the heating and ventilation systems in our buildings to helping our faculty to present, teach, and engage with students. As a result, it's crucial for us to ensure we have the right technology infrastructure."

Washburn has around 1,500 systems deployed across its campuses, including workstations, laptops, and servers, as well as peripherals such as monitors. As the importance of technology grew, the organization aimed to keep pace by refreshing its devices more frequently.

2 The challenge

Haverty states: "In the past, tight annual budgets for IT meant that we were locked into technology refresh cycles that could be as long as 10 years. To bring the latest digital capabilities to our faculty and staff, we looked for a new approach."

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"When we began exploring leasing, we knew it would be a game-changer. By eliminating the need for large up-front capital investment, we could refresh all our devices simultaneously."

John Haverty
Chief Information Officer, Washburn University

Breaking out of long, costly refresh cycles

Working with Lenovo, Washburn University selected and configured brand-new devices to replace its aging IT assets—including high-performance Lenovo ThinkCentre M90a all-in-one PCs, Lenovo ThinkStation P3 Tower workstations, and Lenovo ThinkPad P16v laptops.

Services
Lenovo Financial Services

Hardware
Lenovo Legion Tower 7i
Lenovo ThinkCentre M80s Gen 3
Lenovo ThinkCentre M90a AIO
Lenovo ThinkPad L14 Gen 4
Lenovo ThinkPad P16v Gen 1
Lenovo ThinkPad Thunderbolt 4 Workstation Dock
Lenovo ThinkPad Universal USB-C Dock
Lenovo ThinkStation P3 Tower
Lenovo ThinkSystem SR630 V3
Lenovo ThinkVision E24-30 23.8″ FHD Monitor

Driving innovation across the organization

"Through a lease from U.S. Bank—and subsequently, from Lenovo Financial Services—we've moved to a five-year refresh cycle," explains Haverty. "All our new Lenovo devices come with full warranties, which means it's quick and easy for us to get repairs and replacements when we need them."

Impressed with the quality and performance of the new devices, Washburn University decided to build on its success by expanding its use of Lenovo solutions.

"By replacing end-of-life servers in our data center with Lenovo ThinkSystem solutions, we've strengthened the availability of our core digital services," continued Haverty. "Around the same time, our Office of Student Life approached us to ask for help setting up the university's first esports lounge. Once again, we knew we could count on Lenovo."

Exploring esports opportunities

To bring esports to campus for the first time, Washburn University worked with Lenovo and a local Lenovo business partner to deploy 24 Lenovo Legion Tower 7i gaming PCs with ggLEAP venue management software running on a Lenovo ThinkSystem SR630 V3 server. The esports lounge offers a space for students to socialize, unwind, and take part in tournaments and gaming events.

Haverty says: "We were new to the world of esports, but Lenovo helped us get up to speed quickly with everything we needed to know."

> "After five years of success, we are now starting our second device refresh cycle with Lenovo Financial Services. The new infrastructure includes **1,500 Lenovo ThinkPad devices**, **800 Lenovo ThinkPad docks**, and **800 Lenovo ThinkVision Monitors**—equipping users across the University with the latest-generation devices to support their work."
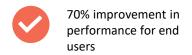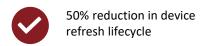
John Haverty

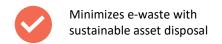**Chief Information Officer, Washburn University**

4 The results

Through its partnership with Lenovo, Washburn University has traded costly capital procurement for efficient and flexible leasing contracts—enabling it to bring the benefits of high-performance Lenovo technology to all stakeholders.

"Our first IT refresh with Lenovo boosted application performance for our end users by around 35%—and the new devices we are preparing to deploy will deliver a further 70% improvement," says Haverty. "Thanks to our ongoing partnership with Lenovo, we can give our students, staff, and faculty the digital tools they need to thrive at Washburn."

✓ 70% improvement in performance for end users

✓ 50% reduction in device refresh lifecycle

✓ Minimizes e-waste with sustainable asset disposal

Focusing on sustainability

Committed to environmental responsibility, Washburn University has a sustainability program that includes energy conservation and recycling targets. By working with Lenovo, the organization can align its IT projects with sustainability objectives.

"One of the things we appreciate about Lenovo is their focus on reducing the environmental impact of their operations," says Haverty. "For example, Lenovo ships new devices to us in reusable bulk packaging made from recycled and renewable materials, and we recycle all devices at the end of the lifecycle."

"As new technologies like AI explode in popularity, IT is only going to become more important for Washburn in the years ahead. **With Lenovo as our go-to technology partner**, we're ready to help our users take full advantage of the latest digital capabilities."

John Haverty

Chief Information Officer, Washburn University

Why Lenovo?

Washburn University assessed solutions from several leading IT vendors, and found that Lenovo came out on top for performance, build quality, and cost-effectiveness.

"By reputation, we knew that Lenovo manufactured high-quality solutions for end users and data centers," states Haverty. "After five years working with Lenovo and counting, we've found their reputation for quality to be well-deserved. Another area that Lenovo really shines is their services. Whenever we need help, we know the expert support we need is only an email or a phone call away."

How can universities break out of long, costly refresh cycles?

With cost-effective leasing from Lenovo, Washburn University delivers brand-new devices to all its stakeholders every five years.

Explore Lenovo Financial Services