



leostream

Remote Desktop Access Platform

Case Study

Monash University Transforms Virtual Desktop Infrastructure with Leostream and OpenStack

Customer Profile



MONASH
University

Research Center

The Research Center at Monash University, an integral part of the larger institution, sought to upgrade its tech foundation. In 2012, they received funding through an Australian government program designed to fast-track infrastructure enhancement. This funding allowed them to build an OpenStack research platform and cloud. Although OpenStack was in its early stages and didn't have extensive support back then, Monash University remained constant in its commitment to open-source solutions.

The Challenge

In 2016, Monash University significantly expanded its online learning programs and supported departmental research. Their goal was to deliver virtual desktops to the Psychology Department. They intended to leverage their existing OpenStack research cloud, and adhering to their dedication to open-source solutions, they decided to employ OpenStack for their virtual desktops. During this transition, Monash University faced several significant challenges:

- ✓ **OpenStack as a VDI Solution:** Traditional VDI providers, such as VMware and Citrix, lacked a comprehensive OpenStack VDI solution. Additionally, a full-scale legacy VDI implementation was impractical due to cost implications and the requirement for substantial on-site resources.
- ✓ **Adapting Online Learning:** The Psychology Department required virtual desktops to bolster its online learning initiatives, an essential step in adapting to modern educational demands.
- ✓ **OpenStack Integration:** Despite OpenStack's appeal, the absence of integrated VDI solutions from prominent vendors like VMware and Citrix posed a significant hurdle.
- ✓ **Cost and Resource Constraints:** The prospect of establishing an entirely new VMware infrastructure was daunting. Given the financial implications and resource demands, finding a solution that could handle virtual desktops efficiently within the OpenStack environment was critical.

The Solution

Monash University discovered Leostream through an "OpenStack VDI" Google search. Their decision to integrate Leostream as a connection management layer atop their OpenStack infrastructure quickly unlocked a plethora of advantages.

One of the key benefits was provisioning in OpenStack. Monash University identified that this Leostream feature was instrumental in transforming their OpenStack cloud into a practical VDI solution. Leostream's provisioning mechanism empowered the university to handle its resources more effectively. By capitalizing on features such as "a golden image," the institution could provision machines on the fly, ensuring they avoided unnecessary CPU consumption during periods when desktops weren't in demand.

Further enriching the experience were Leostream's pooling and policies. These tools enabled Monash to differentiate and distribute the virtual desktops to diverse users based on their specific requirements. Through the nuanced application of these policies, the university could dictate user access with precision. For instance, bioinformatics users were allocated machines boasting 1TB of RAM, whereas educators received comparatively compact configurations.

Rounding off the suite of benefits was the Leostream Gateway, a modern solution offering secure, in-browser, HTML5 access. This was particularly invaluable for the university's students and faculty who operated on devices incompatible with a Leostream Connect installation, as it ensured seamless connectivity to their desktops.

With Leostream's features tailored for OpenStack VDI, Monash University not only optimized its digital infrastructure but also ensured a user-centric approach that catered to the diverse needs of its academic community.

The Benefits

These key benefits have transformed Monash University's approach to virtual desktop infrastructure:

- ✓ The university can now effectively set up virtual desktops, facilitating a seamless learning experience. This initiative aids in academic pursuits and also streamlines administrative functions.
- ✓ A notable decrease in expenses has been achieved through the integration of the Leostream solution. This financial benefit enables the strategic distribution of resources among different academic projects.
- ✓ Adopting the Leostream solution has strengthened user access management, providing all stakeholders with a controlled and secure environment. This level of control enhances data security and privacy.
- ✓ The quick implementation of virtual desktops on the OpenStack infrastructure has accelerated the adoption of online learning tools and resources.

Conclusion

Monash University successfully tackled the challenge of implementing an OpenStack-based VDI solution by partnering with Leostream. Their commitment to open-source technology and the flexibility provided by Leostream allowed them to efficiently provision virtual desktops, manage resources, and enhance user experiences. This transformative journey highlights the power of innovative solutions in the realm of education and technology.

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