



Pepperdine University Improves Print Management and Simplifies Document Imaging

Multiple campuses and thousands of students meant that Pepperdine University needed a printing solution that would provide quality output but also help control print and copy spending. Sharp came to the rescue with multifunction printers (MFPs) that included a robust print tracking and chargeback system to keep costs down.

Business Environment Challenges

With six campuses across Southern California, including its main campus in Malibu, Pepperdine University serves more than 7,500 students and 2,000 faculty and staff. When the university's MFP lease expired, Pepperdine needed to find a manufacturer that would not only be able to provide quality printers, but also help control some of the print spending and volume by its faculty, staff and students.

Technology Solutions

In September 2016, after quality testing a number of brands, Pepperdine installed a mix of 81 Sharp MFPs, integrated with PaperCut™ MF software for improved print tracking and management for both faculty and students.

Proven results

Integrated with the university's CBORD system, the new Sharp solution has enabled Pepperdine to link digital imaging costs back to individual students and employee accounts via physical ID cards or manually entered account credentials. PaperCut MF tracks all print activity and generates monthly usage reports for staff to better monitor their spending as well. Reducing print-related costs, as well as print waste, has been a major benefit of the Sharp solution.

Industry

Education

Organization

Pepperdine University

Challenges

- Unmanaged print spending
- Excessive print costs
- Bulky print job release process
- Outdated digital imaging equipment

Solutions

- PaperCut MF
- MX-M365N
- MX-M465N
- MX-3570N
- MX-4070N
- MX-5070N
- MX-M654N
- MX-M754N
- MX-M904

Results

- Established print tracking and chargeback system for students and faculty
- Reduced print-related costs
- Established web portal for easy access and print job release
- Improved responsible printing
- Simplified overall print process for enhanced productivity
- Reduced print waste

“When print jobs are released, both students and employees can see the associated cost, allowing them to not only manage their personal spending, but also make more responsible printing decisions,” says Pepperdine University IT Communications Team Lead, Jordan Lott. “The reports generated by PaperCut MF also help facilitate our interdepartmental recharges at the beginning of each month. By attributing print spending to different departments, including specific projects or grants, we have a much more granular picture of where print dollars are being spent.”

Pepperdine also benefits from the improved quality of output.

“I did extensive color testing on the Sharp devices prior to the contract signing and found that the large image output was far superior to any other printer. I really pushed the Sharp MFPs to see if I could produce high quality copies of non-standard image sizes without training on the devices, of which I was successful,” continues Lott. “I also found that the touch-screen control panel was very intuitive, making regular interaction simpler for everyone.”

In particular, Pepperdine cites the web-hosted printing portal as a major determinant of the solution’s success. Students can upload image files from anywhere and on any device (including mobile), and then release the print job from any conveniently located network printer.

“The entire process after submitting the print job is much faster – you go to the device, swipe an ID card, and your printing is completed. There are no longer release stations and administrative tasks associated with completing a print job,” says Lott.



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*-- Jordan Lott, IT Communications Team Lead,
Pepperdine University*