

Taking the stress out of exam season

Université Côte d'Azur makes life easier for teachers and students with digital exam centres



Higher education | France

Business needs

Université Côte d'Azur wanted to optimize and facilitate the assessment of students during exams.

Solutions at a glance

- [Dell Latitude 14" Series 5000](#)

Business results

- Digital exam centres can scale up to handle 29,000 students
- Exam laptops run for 12 hours a day without interruption
- Students can take exams even if they miss an examination
- Teachers save time thanks to automatic test marking

Automation saves

9 days
of university admin time



Students ready to begin exams in

5 minutes





The thought of exam season is enough to make any student wince. But rows of young people hunched over desks in silent exam halls is becoming less common in today's universities. Thanks to new digital technologies, the Université Côte d'Azur in Nice, France, is making exams less taxing for both students and administrators.

The university's 29,000 students take exams throughout the year. These sessions of exams generated hundreds of thousands of paper copies and countless hours of staff time to supervise and record exams. Not to mention afterwards the time required to enter the results in the university systems. Even examinations for subjects like IT—which are done at a computer—are costly, as the university's IT suites hold only around 20 students at a time.

Digitising the exam experience

Université Côte d'Azur wanted an efficient and secure way to test large numbers of students. Sophie Rapetti, head of digital exam centres at the Université Côte d'Azur, says: "Reliability was a priority—the systems couldn't go down in the middle of an exam. They also had to be secure to prevent fraud. We can't allow web access or communications between students, or the loading of information from a USB stick."

Plus, with so many students using the system, it needed to be fast and efficient, easy to deploy and simple for students to sign up for each exam session.

Leading the way with laptops

IT staff at Cote d'Azur University quickly identified the best solution was laptops. They planned a pilot for selected subjects and turned to Dell, a trusted and long-term partner, to deliver the technology.

In a trial at two campuses, students took exams on Dell Latitude 14 " Series 5000 stored, secured and reloaded in connected mobile classrooms of the university's network via an integrated Dell EMC Networking switch switch. The mobile carts can be transferred to campus, configured and managed remotely, so computers are always fully charged and can also be managed remotely.

Rapetti says, "Our IT staff can manage all settings and security parameters. It was easy to distribute a master image with the appropriate applications and restrictions to all devices."

Faster results, a smoother experience

The new system has been warmly received by teachers and students alike. Previously, an exam session on paper with 2,000 students required multiple admin staff entering results into the university's digital learning platform over several days.

"With digital exam centres, the tests are marked automatically. This reduces the risk of human error, and the results are available straight away."

Sophie Rapetti, Head of Digital Exam Centres,
Université Côte d'Azur

“With digital exam centres, the tests are marked automatically. This eliminates the risk of human error, and the results are available straight away in the learning platform,” says Rapetti. “Plus, we produce enriched statistics, so students know where they did well and where they need to improve. This information is useful for both students and teachers.”

The students have grown up with technology, so they appreciate the fact that they can get to an exam room and get online to start their exams in just five minutes—no more long queues to register. Plus, if a student goes to the wrong examination by accident, they can still take their test in time. The device lets them access the test they need regardless of their location.

Digital exam centres are easier to manage

The IT staff who look after the new technology are highly satisfied. For an exam session with 2,000 students, all the devices can be prepared in a day.

“We also appreciate how robust the devices are,” says a member of the technical team. “On intensive exam days, laptops stay on from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. And we’ve had no failures and no technical issues to fix.”

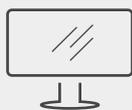
Setting a national example

Building on this success, the Université Côte d’Azur will offer this device on all its campuses and to all its teachers.

Stéphane Azoulay, vice-president training at Université Côte d’Azur, says, “This national pilot project will allow us to provide a solution for institutions that would like to evaluate large numbers of students.”

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A member of the technical team at, Université Côte d’Azur



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