Timecruiser
Computing Corporation

About Timecruiser Computing Corporation®

Since 1995, institutions of higher education have relied upon Timecruiser to deliver innovative SaaS enterprise management solutions, backed by unrivaled customer service and technical support. Timecruiser's CODiE Award-winning on-demand solutions are used by over 2.5 million students, faculty, and administrators at 90 institutions to streamline faculty workload, build cohesive communities, and increase efficiencies in communication, and course management. Solutions include:

→ CourseCruiser™, Learning Management System

→ CampusCruiser®, Custom Portal

→ CruiserEval™, Course Evaluation Solution

→ CruiserAlert™, High Priority Notification System

Learn More

Contact Timecruiser today for more information.

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Website   www.timecruiser.com

Western International University Drives e-Learning Growth and Success via SaaS On-Demand Solution

Western International University (WIU) is a for-profit corporation committed to providing educational innovation and high-quality degree programs. Its Arizona campuses are located in Phoenix, Chandler, Peoria, Scottsdale, and Fort Huachuca. International campuses are in China and its virtual campus, WIU Interactive Online, is found anywhere one has access to the web. The university has 5,000 students, with about half of them attending its virtual campus.

The majority of WIU's students are working adults who thrive on the flexibility and convenience of WIU's course schedules and locations. WIU's students have the opportunity to demonstrate their individual achievements through measures such as quizzes, tests, papers, projects, and presentations as well as, via their online participation in study groups or learning teams. WIU offers associate, bachelor, and master degree programs, as well as a professional certificate in Accountancy.

Challenge: Stepping up to a Modern Platform

WIU was founded in 1978 and is one of the first American universities to develop flexible learning programs specifically designed for working adults. The leaders of the university have consistently sought to incorporate technologies that supported their commitment to adult learning.

In 2003, the university decided a campus email system was an essential technology for enhancing communications between students, faculty and administrators. Arguably, WIU had the resources and capabilities to build their own, custom software. However, building their own system would have required precious resources (people, equipment and software) to focus significant time on the task (and away from more mission focused support of educating students). Alternatively, they could have purchased a software license from an existing vendor of conventional, on-premise software. Both options would require valuable staff resources and an on-site technology infrastructure to support the systems.

The administration and campus technology leaders were very concerned with development costs, potential hardware investments, staffing requirements, and perhaps, most importantly, the time lag involved in getting from point A to point B.

Solution: CampusCruiser Portal from Timecruiser Computing

The relationship between WIU and Timecruiser Computing Company (TCC) began that year when the university acquired TCC's campus communications solution, CampusCruiser. CampusCruiser provided immediate benefits by:

→ Enhancing communications across all campuses, and with all students and faculty.

→ Empowering students and faculty to collaborate through online campus communities and networks.

→ Increasing campus-wide efficiencies.

Besides meeting the university's communications needs, the solution also saved WIU both time and money. CampusCruiser leverages Software as a Service (SaaS) technology. It runs on the Timecruiser Computing Company's premises, not WIU's. Payment is by subscription spread over the term of a contract, versus a large up-front license fee.

Thus, WIU experienced a speedy installation of the solution, and realized a lower total cost of ownership (TCO) through this initial relationship with Timecruiser Computing.

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Evolving Together

As time passed, Timecruiser Computing added to its product offerings to better meet the changing and expanding needs of colleges and universities. Simultaneously, WIU developed and expanded its online learning programs. The university embraced the enhancements made to existing Timecruiser Computing solutions and added new modules. Today, WIU leverages three Timecruiser Computing products:

→ CourseCruiser™   Learning Management System

→ CampusCruiser™ Communication & Collaboration Portal

→ CruiserAlert™   High-priority and Emergency Alert System

Power of SaaS

The fact that Timecruiser Computing solutions are built on the SaaS platform has been an important factor in nurturing the relationship between WIU and Timecruiser Computing over the years. Exceptional solutions, built on the powerful SaaS platform, are appealing to colleges and universities for a variety of reasons, including:

1. **Multi-tenant architecture.** All customers share the same hardware infrastructure and the same version or "instance" of a SaaS-based application. Thus, customers enjoy seamless upgrades, speedy release cycles, lower total cost of ownership, and freedom from IT maintenance and hardware expenses, while still providing each client with their own branding options and individual business rules.

2. **Steady subscription service.** Costs are known and there are no capital expenses for data centers, power and cooling systems, application licenses, etc.

3. **Lower costs from off-premise hosting.** The hosting service manages all software upgrades, maintenance, fixes and other enhancements. Staffing requirements are minimal. The software vendor (known as SaaS vendor) updates the applications regularly free of cost.

4. **Fast deployment.** SaaS can be deployed in just a few days.

CourseCruiser™ LMS = Lower Total Cost of Ownership

CourseCruiser's Learning Management System (LMS) is the latest service offered to students and faculty as part of "MyWIU," the university's moniker for Timecruiser Computing's solutions. CourseCruiser provides WIU a learning management system with usability that scales from supporting in-person classes with online components to hybrid classes to full-blown online learning programs.

Scott Wiegand, Associate Director of University Technology, states, "The evolution of Timecruiser Computing has been a critical part of our university's growth and our ability to offer enhanced services to students and faculty. Their learning management solution worked right out of the box, with minimal effort required to integrate it with our administrative systems. Timecruiser has been a step ahead of our needs."

Scott and the university have been particularly pleased with the lower total cost of ownership. In his estimation, WIU spends less than half of what an on-premise, learning management solution would cost by choosing to partner with Timecruiser Computing.

Total annual savings are estimated at nearly $250,000. Infrastructure costs for Timecruiser Computing's solution were less than $5,000, versus an estimated cost of more than $700,000 for an on-premise solution. The additional staffing requirements are estimated at just 0.35 FTEs (full-time equivalents), a mere one-sixth of the estimated staffing expense for an on-premise solution.

"We have saved a considerable amount of money by not having an on-premise software solution. The hardware alone would overshadow the subscription cost, and we don' t have additional software to install and maintain. Timecruiser has proven over the years to be a company that listens to its customers, asking for product ideas and improvements and incorporating customer feedback into new products and releases. Perhaps most importantly, Timecruiser Computing solutions allow Western International University to focus on education, rather than technology."

Scott Wiegand, Associate Director of University Technology