

PUBLIC SECTOR & EDUCATION

ILLUSTRATIVE SCENARIO

Giving a university system predictable cost and control

On a fixed budget, a public university system could not absorb VMware's new pricing. Replatforming to dedicated KVM gave it predictable cost, self-service for researchers and data that stays in-state.

ORGANIZATION

Public university system

TRIGGER

Mid-cycle license increase

WORKLOADS

Research labs, learning platforms

UPC SERVICES

Single-tenant KVM, VDCs, Sovereign Cloud

The situation

Central IT supported several campuses, each with its own departments, labs and teaching platforms, on budgets set a year ahead by the state. Researchers often waited weeks for new virtual machines, and some had started buying their own servers or public cloud accounts, creating shadow IT and data-residency headaches.

The turning point

When the VMware price increase landed mid-budget-cycle, there was no money to cover it. Central IT needed a platform with a cost it could forecast, one that kept student and research data in the state and gave departments the speed they were finding elsewhere.

What was at stake

Budget

A fixed budget with no room for surprise increases.

Data residency

Student and research data must stay in-state.

Speed

Researchers were routing around IT to get compute.

Illustrative scenario based on typical UPC replatforming engagements. Not a specific customer.

THE APPROACH

How the replatforming unfolded

UPC built one dedicated private cloud for the whole system, with a virtual data center for each campus and department, all on KVM.

- 01 Model the cost**
 Built a multi-year cost model so finance could plan around a predictable number.
- 02 Win the researchers**
 Moved research and teaching labs first, with catalog templates so researchers launch VMs themselves.
- 03 Move shared platforms**
 Replatformed learning and web platforms wave by wave, between academic terms.
- 04 Secure student systems**
 Moved student information systems last, with UPC Sovereign Cloud data residency controls.

WHAT CHANGED

AREA	BEFORE	AFTER
Cost	Unplanned license increases	→ Predictable, budgetable spend
Provisioning	Weeks, via ticket	→ Minutes, via self-service catalog
Data	Scattered across shadow IT	→ In-state, on dedicated infrastructure
Structure	One shared cluster	→ A VDC per campus and department

WHAT'S NEXT

With departments now self-serving, central IT is bringing shadow IT workloads back onto the platform and adding a disaster recovery site on UPC.

Facing a similar decision?

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