



# COMPOSABLE INFRASTRUCTURE PLATFORM POWERS VIRTUAL EDUCATION FOR UNIVERSIDAD AMERICANA

HPE Synergy, HPE 3PAR speed  
responsiveness to dynamic academic needs

## Objective

Improve IT agility to meet the dynamic academic demands for expanding virtual education offerings

## Approach

Build infrastructure on HPE Synergy composable platform and HPE 3PAR storage to rapidly deliver virtual servers and desktops for students on and off campus

## IT matters

- Reduces time to build virtual labs from two weeks to six hours
- Optimizes applications and service levels using automation
- Simplifies IT administration, freeing more time for innovation

## Business matters

- Accelerates IT responsiveness to the needs of the university
- Assures reliable high-performance for growing virtual education offerings
- Provides 5-year return on investment



**Leveraging HPE Synergy, a composable infrastructure platform, and HPE 3PAR storage, Universidad Americana is rapidly expanding its virtual education offerings for students. With composable infrastructure, IT can respond dynamically and efficiently to academic demands, reducing IT administrative overhead costs while elevating the end-user experience.**

Universidad Americana is transforming education in Paraguay and across Latin America. Founded in 1994, the university grew rapidly to encompass four colleges with approximately 4,000 students and 200 instructors. And in the next five years, Universidad Americana has set an aggressive goal to expand by 60%. However, that growth will not necessarily mean a more crowded campus. That's because the university is a leader in virtual education, and while today 60% of students study on-campus and 40% remotely, the objective is to invert that ratio.

One of the ways Universidad Americana is enabling virtual education is through technology. A long-time HPE customer, the university had built a robust VMware® virtual environment on the HPE BladeSystem c7000. However, to meet the university's growth objectives, it needed

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– César Blasser, Chief Information Officer, Universidad Americana

**HPE Synergy composable infrastructure enables Universidad Americana to deliver high-quality, dynamic education**



a more dynamic compute environment for the virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI) and a platform on which to consolidate multiple types of workloads.

For César Blasser, Chief Information Officer, and Rubén Villalba, IT Infrastructure Manager with Universidad Americana, the clear solution was HPE Synergy. “HPE Synergy is one of the first solutions that offers a composable infrastructure,” says Villalba. “This translates into efficiencies and application optimization for upgrading our service levels, reducing costs, and freeing up human resources.”

### **DELIVERING A HIGH-QUALITY VIRTUAL DESKTOP EXPERIENCE**

Universidad Americana consolidated its compute infrastructure on a single HPE Synergy frame, currently populated with five HPE Synergy 480 Gen10 Compute Modules powered by second-generation Intel® Xeon® Scalable processors. The university also upgraded its storage to the HPE 3PAR StoreServ 8400 enterprise-class flash array.

The HPE Synergy and HPE 3PAR systems are used exclusively to run the university’s VMware virtual machines (VMs) and virtual desktops serving the student population. This high-performance, agile environment allows students to access applications such as Microsoft Visual Studio and AutoCAD, as well as Microsoft SQL Server databases, with a consistent high-quality user experience—on or off campus—with assured availability.

Villalba also built 12 Informatica labs—eight virtual and five physical—with 35 VMs each and a total of 300 virtual desktops

for students. He reports that in the past, setting up a lab with 35 VMs would take one or two weeks, but using the HPE Synergy Composer, he can now complete the setup in less than six hours.

“It is important for us to have an agile, efficient, and above all, high-performance infrastructure,” Blasser remarks. “We want to give students a virtual desktop experience that is the same as if they were using a physical system. That is why we opted for HPE Synergy and the HPE 3PAR 8400 systems. The academic needs of the university are dynamic, and that is where HPE Synergy helps make resources available quickly and efficiently. It has allowed us to compose the infrastructure according to the needs demanded by the institution.”

Villalba adds, “Our experience with HPE 3PAR has been very satisfying and rewarding. The management and administration are simple and intuitive, offering a friendly console where you can find everything you need without resorting to third-party tools. With HPE 3PAR we do not need to invest much time in administration because it performs very reliably. Instead of spending long hours on administration, we can invest that time in new projects for the institution.”

In addition, Universidad Americana relies on Aruba networking for its campus-wide Wi-Fi, using ClearPass to authenticate and segment users from different departments.

Blasser notes, “Aruba is one of the world leaders in Wi-Fi solutions because it offers the most advanced and secure wireless connectivity. In addition to the technological advantages, it was the best economic proposal we received compared to other solutions on the market.”





## **STREAMLINES ADMINISTRATION WITH PREDICTIVE ANALYSIS**

For central administration of the entire infrastructure, Universidad Americana relies on HPE OneView. In addition to providing broad observability of server and storage resources, HPE OneView enables Blasser and his team to streamline everyday tasks such as firmware updates and to accelerate the provisioning of additional infrastructure resources as demand requires.

“Undoubtedly, OneView is one of the best infrastructure management tools offered by HPE,” Villalba declares. “We like OneView because it is an intuitive tool, and on one screen you can control the whole data center independent of which model of equipment you have. OneView is a tool every IT person should have to manage the complete infrastructure.”

Universidad Americana also takes advantage of AI-driven HPE InfoSight for global visibility and predictive analysis of the infrastructure. HPE InfoSight provides an invaluable tool to monitor the health of IT systems across the infrastructure, as well as anticipate preventive maintenance needs before incidents occur that could degrade service or cause downtime. Blasser can even keep an eye on systems via a mobile app, so he can take quick action if necessary.

Blasser observes, “HPE InfoSight has predicted and prevented problems that, in many cases, were not noticeable to us. It helps us to plan and simplify growth thanks to the artificial intelligence that the tool possesses. We are very happy with the way HPE InfoSight helps us make better decisions thanks to its predictive analysis.”

The automation and insights enabled through HPE OneView and HPE InfoSight also greatly simplified life for the IT organization at Universidad Americana. In the past, the team required seven technicians to look after the infrastructure, while today the same job is handled by one person.

When additional operational support is required, Universidad Americana can count on HPE Proactive Care, delivered by HPE Pointnext Services. Villalba says, “Proactive Care reports provide us with information to prevent incidents. We evaluate the reports of quarterly incidents to analyze and make comparisons with respect to incidents of equal similarity. As for the maintenance and updating of firmware and software, it has ceased to be a concern with the Proactive Care service. Thanks to the early detection of incidents, students have 99% availability of services.”



**Case study**

Universidad  
Americana

**Industry**

Higher education

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– Rubén Villalba, IT Infrastructure Manager, Universidad Americana

**Customer at a glance****Solution**

Virtual desktop infrastructure for delivering reliable, high-performance access to academic applications for students on and off campus

**Hardware**

- HPE Synergy
- HPE 3PAR StoreServ 8400 Storage
- Aruba Access Points

**Software**

- HPE OneView
- HPE InfoSight
- VMware vSphere®
- Horizon View

**HPE Pointnext Services**

- HPE Proactive Care

**GROWING AND EXPANDING VALUE FOR THE UNIVERSITY**

With a high-performance composable infrastructure built on HPE Synergy and HPE 3PAR, Universidad Americana is now positioned to support its ongoing growth in virtual education. “The HPE composable infrastructure gives Universidad Americana a way to innovate and grow, since IT can respond much faster to academic demands as they arise,” Blasser affirms.

Moreover, IT is able to optimize applications and service levels using automation for a multitude of workloads on a single unified infrastructure. This efficiency reduces costs and frees up valuable IT resources.

For example, Blasser estimates that HPE Synergy saves the equivalent of one full year’s operating expense that would have been required with traditional infrastructure. In addition, he projects the university will realize a full return on investment (ROI) within five years.

Blasser concludes, “With the efficiencies of the HPE Composable Infrastructure, we are able to focus on more strategic activities and turn our ideas into important business value, growing and expanding our educational offerings for students.”

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