

Admin-Initiated Printing for the University of Oklahoma

A powerful new feature rolls out to the Wēpa network

BACKGROUND

A commitment to innovative, student-driven technology

The University of Oklahoma's One University Digital Initiative empowers students with interactive content, access to new technologies, and highly desirable skills. As part of their overall technology goals, OU is in the process of revolutionizing their computer labs, and alongside that comes the need to rethink student printing.

Since 2014, twenty-seven Wēpa cloud print kiosks have been installed at the Norman campus, giving students an easier printing solution that frees up space and time. "The kiosks are located in various computer labs across campus as well as OU Libraries and provide a cost saving and convenient printing option to users," said Chris Kobza, Executive Director for Campus and Community Engagement at OU.

With Wēpa kiosks, students can now print from their phone, a web upload, an email sent to their account, or from any major cloud storage platform—without having to use storage devices or login to school computers.

Free printing and prizes helped raise awareness for the new kiosks



CHALLENGE

The need for easily incentivizing students

The University of Oklahoma was looking for a faster, easier way to deliver rewards to students participating in an initiative to increase campus digital security. If students would perform a desired action, like change their university account password, then they would receive a gift certificate or coupon.

"OU was seeking a solution designed to distribute print jobs securely in the cloud that could be retrieved by any of the 27 kiosks," said Kobza, who realized that the kiosks could possibly automate the distribution of the coupons, thus saving valuable employee time.

SOLUTION

Allowing administrators to send documents to student accounts

Chris Kobza spoke with Wēpa’s Chief Technology Officer Raj Batchu, who decided that the new OU request could be satisfied with a tool that would allow administrators to load and control documents in the system. Batchu quickly got the Wēpa team involved to create a brand new feature. “First we had to upgrade and change the code in our API,” said Batchu. “Once we created the API, we needed a tool that would reflect it.”

RESULT

Limitless possibility for administrators across the Wēpa network

Wēpa’s team managed a fast turnaround—just a week to create a whole new feature in time for OU’s incentivized campaign. The cloud printing solution that was already in-line with OU’s needs suddenly became that much more powerful.

OU can now send documents to students for a variety of reasons, not just for coupons and other prizes. What’s more, Wēpa has rolled out this tool across the entire network, meaning that other universities can now innovate their own uses for admin-initiated print jobs.

“The new update is useful for OU, and now Wēpa will share this function with the whole ecosystem,” said Batchu. “What we create for one university is automatically given to all Wēpa customers.”

“The Wēpa print app was designed to allow users to print to the cloud directly from a smartphone to any print station.”

– Chris Kobza, Executive Director for Campus and Community Engagement at OU



Wēpa kiosks showcase school pride



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