Students at Laney College Remotely Access Computer Labs with Splashtop

Summary

The Career and Technical Education division at Laney College hosts several computers labs that provide students with the high-powered software they use in their academic courses. When COVID-19 shut the campus down, Laney College needed a new way to give students access to these software applications.

Laney College turned to Splashtop to enable students to remotely access lab computers from their own devices, even Chromebooks. Students and instructors have been very pleased with the results thus far.

The Challenge: Students Can't Access Lab Computers From Home

The CTE division at Laney College houses departments including graphic arts, digital data controls, architecture, construction management, machine technology, wood technology, and more. Each of these departments teach students on the same software applications currently being used by professionals in their respective fields.

Software that the students are using include Adobe creative tools like Photoshop, popular architecture applications including AutoCAD and Revit, and other 3D design and modeling tools such as SketchUp, Rhino, and SolidWorks.
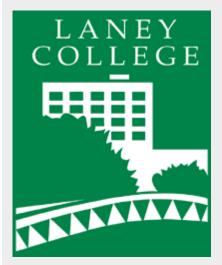
Many of these applications require powerful desktop computers to function, which is why Laney College provides several computer labs on campus that students are able to use.

However, when COVID-19 hit and shut down the campus, students had no way to access the lab computers.

"The students need access to this software," explained Gerald Casey, who works in the IT department at the CTE. "Some of the software applications have student

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Gerald Casey
Laney College CTE

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versions that they can run on their computers. That's great. But some students have computers that aren't powerful enough to run this software. And then some of the applications simply don't have student versions. The students have to have access to this software to continue their studies, and that's where Splashtop comes in."

Laney College needed to find a solution fast to continue giving students access to the software they needed despite the campus shut down.

The Solution: Give Students Remote Access to Lab Computers From Their Own Devices

Casey had no time to spare. Students needed access to the lab computers as soon as possible as they were still in the middle of their semester.

"I didn't even look at VPN because I know them to be far too cumbersome," Casey said, "We needed to do something very fast. I started Googling, Splashtop came up. I tested it and it worked great. I didn't even try anybody else."

In additional to being easy to deploy and scale, Casey also chose Splashtop because of its industry-leading security.

"I was very impressed with the level of security that Splashtop has. That made me not worry," said Casey.

With Splashtop, Casey enabled students to be able to remotely access lab computers from their own laptops, tablets, and mobile devices. Once a student connects into a remote machine, they are able to take control and use its software as if they were sitting right in front of the remote computer.

With HD quality, sound, 4k streaming, and no laggy connections students enjoy a seamless experience while in a remote session.

There was no need to train the students on how to use Splashtop. It was intuitive and easy to use. Casey was able to get students set up in no time.

Results: Great Feedback From Students, Faculty, and IT

Students and faculty were impressed by how Splashtop helped Laney College continue delivering a high quality education despite the sudden shift to being fully remote. They did not expect things to run this smoothly given that many students were using Chromebooks.

"There is a state program that provides students with computers, so we've been providing them with Chromebooks," Casey said, "They can't run SolidWorks with the Chromebooks. But the Chromebooks provide access to our computer labs where they can run it. The instructors love it. They can't believe it works so well, they're shocked, and I don't think I'm overstating that."

Laney College is now preparing for the Fall semester with Splashtop.

"I was told they're orienting a lot of classes around Splashtop because there aren't going to be in-person classes in the Fall," said Casey, "We are having socially distant classes so students can complete their certificates and their degrees. This has been a big deal, we wouldn't have been able to have them do that if it wasn't for Splashtop."

Splashtop is the ideal solution for educational institutions looking for a high performance, accessible, easy to manage, and secure remote access tool that students and faculty can use to access on-campus machines. Start your free trial now so you can enhance your students' remote learning experience.