A Platform for Learning Transformation

Microsoft CityNext Education solutions provide a broad technology platform of cloud, advanced analytics, mobile and social technologies designed to help schools transform.

Device and Mobility
- Windows devices cater for different subjects and learning styles with digital ink, touch, keyboard, voice and video allowing students to sketch notes, type essays, video lessons and more.
- BYOD and/or school devices are managed with the Enterprise Mobility Suite, providing secure single-sign on access to school services, applications and social media.
- Technology provides inclusive, accessible learning. Speech recognition in Windows 10 for physically challenged students, Skype real-time transcripts for the hearing impaired and Kinect helps those who find it easier to use gestures.

Learning Solutions
- Office 365 ProPlus provides a suite of cloud-based productivity tools for student and staff collaboration and communication at home, at school and on the go.
- Schools can register multiple third-party cloud applications in Azure Active Directory providing single sign-on access to a portfolio of relevant resources.
- Windows 10 helps students and staff organize schoolwork with easy ways to snap apps in place, optimize their screen space, group items and create virtual desktops.

Learning Systems
- Schools can simplify registration and administration and improve course management with online services. Microsoft Azure provides pay-as-you-go access to infrastructure and platform services, allowing schools to save money by scaling up resources during busy times, such as enrollment and assessment and scaling down during periods of low demand.
- BYOD devices are connected to mobile device management services providing smart reporting and proactive security.

School and Campus Administration
- Through the Enterprise Mobility Suite, students and staff can access IT services with self-service password reset, application and device installations, and group management.
- EMS also manages access to devices (including those consistently outside firewalls) and Multi-factor Authentication capabilities. An integrated environment extends device management to small or remote schools and campuses.
- Microsoft CityNext education solutions help schools operate more sustainably using Internet of Things sensors to control lighting, heating and cooling and smartcards for secure access.

Education Analytics and Research
- To improve institution effectiveness, schools can extract data and track and evaluate different criteria for informed planning and decision-making.
- A 360-degree view of performance and operations with easy-to-use reporting tools simplifies access to data and report-sharing with stakeholders.

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Building a Technology Platform for Learning Transformation

Starting at the departure point, where many schools now stand, you can move to option 2, which provides a gradual introduction to cloud services or to 3, which is more integrated. The final stage 4 is completely cloud-based.

1. Departure Point
At many schools, the ICT infrastructure still contains the same components and elements as ten years ago, such as local directory services, local infrastructure, application and database servers. Usually staff and students can only access services inside the school network, putting constraints on an ‘anywhere, anytime’ learning model.

2. Transition – First Steps
The transition phase involves taking your first steps towards a more cost-efficient user-centric IT model. This entails moving some services to the cloud while continuing to leverage your investment in legacy systems as you evaluate and rationalize applications and services.

3. Learning Innovation – Towards Cloud
The Learning Innovation state can be achieved in as little as 12 months, mostly using existing investments in your school’s own infrastructure, as well as Office 365 Education and Azure AD. It allows you to retain school databases on-premises but still use the cloud.

4. Learning Transformation
The learning transformation state is focused on eliminating IT infrastructure purchasing, management and maintenance costs by moving to an entirely cloud-based IT model.