

University of California, Berkeley reduces expenses with the Fujitsu ScanSnap™ scanner

The University of California, Berkeley, founded in 1868, is one of the America's top Universities. It offers degrees in 100 different subjects to 28,500 students. Located in the San Francisco Bay area city of Berkeley, California the university is known for its cultural diversity and academic excellence.

One of UC Berkley's faculty members, Dr. Joonhong Ahn, a professor of nuclear engineering, was overwhelmed with the mounds of paper accumulating in his office. The combination of teaching undergraduate courses while conducting research and publishing findings kept Dr. Ahn exceptionally busy and knee-deep in paperwork. Like most educators, Dr. Ahn used to rely on traditional filing methods for storing paper documents. His small office was filled with rows of filing cabinets making it difficult to quickly find needed documents and keep a tidy work-space.

Frustrated by the never-ending stream of incoming reports Dr. Ahn sought to find a solution that would allow him quickly digitize report, handouts, research and other paper documents that had to be archived but readily accessible on demand. During the first stage of his personal document management project Dr. Ahn used a flatbed scanner which forced him to scan each page one side at a time – an extremely time consuming process. Due to the time intensity of the project Dr. Ahn abandoned the scanner and the paper continued to pile up eventually filling all of his storage space.

Because Dr. Ahn had a high volume of diverse paperwork (multiple page sizes, colors, graphs, etc.) his goal was to find a scanner that he could leave stacks paperwork in and come back to a completed project. After researching the scanner market, Dr. Ahn was impressed by the Fujitsu ScanSnap scanner because of its superior functionality and ease of use. Dr. Ahn chose ScanSnap when he learned that it offers fast duplex scanning that automatically eliminates blank pages, detects color, and scans directly to the universally accepted PDF format.

Fujitsu ScanSnap Scanning Solution Organizes while Saving Time and Money

Upon its arrival, Dr. Ahn quickly and easily installed ScanSnap and began archiving his own documents, research produced by other nuclear engineers, student papers, and former tests and lectures.

In the first month of the implementation Dr. Ahn converted roughly 10,000 pages into PDF documents. Within weeks Dr. Ahn's office, once overflowing with paper, became neat and organized saving Dr. Ahn what he was most in need of – time. Finding archived tests, reports and research that used to take up to 15-20 minutes per file is now completed with a couple of keystrokes and now he is able to find even the most obscure document within seconds.

In addition to the significant time savings, Dr. Ahn is also saving himself and the tight-budgeted University of California several hundred dollars a semester. California's recent financial crisis has necessitated that universities reduce expenses at rate of 8.5% annually. As a result administration has required that faculty members avoid distributing paper handouts as much as possible.

In the fall semester of 2004 Dr. Ahn taught a class of fifteen students and each one was assigned about 300

pages of supplemental reading in addition to their text. In the past these readings were photocopied and distributed in person which required a substantial time commitment and a financial burden to either the University or Dr. Ahn's personal research fund. Now, thanks to ScanSnap scanner, Dr. Ahn is no longer required to fight over who pays for photocopies or waste time at the machine because he can quickly email students a PDF version of a reading or post the material to a university server.

The Fujitsu ScanSnap scanner has also made it easier for Dr. Ahn to post new research to his website, a must in this day and age. Until recently it was customary to publish thick research reports solely in paper format. That trend is slowly changing and researchers are now able to receive PDF copies along with paper, but that still leaves years of research that exists only in hardcopy or various file formats. With ScanSnap, Dr. Ahn was able to standardize all of the research on his website in a matter of minutes.

"From the day that my Fujitsu ScanSnap arrived I have been impressed by the scanner's functionality and durability. It can scan documents at high speeds so that I am not left itching with impatience," said Dr. Ahn. "In my past experiences with flatbed scanners digitizing a stack of documents at one time was a daunting task. Now with ScanSnap I don't feel like I'm taking on the world when scanning several documents. This scanner has reshaped how I manage documents, organize my office, distribute papers to students, post research and share information with colleagues. In less than a semester the scanner paid for itself in the cost of photocopies alone while freeing up hours that I would have spent searching for files or standing idle in front of a photocopy machine."

For more information:

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