Alphanumeric Systems Deploys Higher Education Fujitsu M10 Server for Ellucian Software Solution to Help Cut Campus Operating Costs, Reduce Energy Usage

Established: 1963

Enrollment: More than 800,000 students

Locations: 58 campuses state-wide

With a network of 58 institutions throughout the state, the North Carolina Community College System offers high-quality, accessible educational opportunities to the surrounding communities through education, training and retraining for the workforce including basic skills and literacy education, occupational and pre-baccalaureate programs.

The North Carolina Community College System enrolls more than 800,000 students and is the third largest community college system in the nation.

Several community colleges that are part of the North Carolina System have selected Alphanumeric Systems, Inc., a leading provider of business productivity services, to upgrade their IT departments with state-of-the-art campus systems to ensure student success and effective day-to-day campus administration.

Solutions:

Oracle Products

Fujitsu M10-1 SPARC servers
Fujitsu M10-4 SPARC servers
Oracle Solaris
Oracle VM Server for SPARC

Many of the North Carolina community colleges previously used older, rack-mountable Sun Enterprise 450 and Sun Fire V890 servers from Sun Microsystems, and other Sun Enterprise servers running [Ellucian](#) higher education software. In an effort to modernize their IT infrastructures, several colleges chose to install compact, yet powerful [Fujitsu M10-1 servers](#) and [Fujitsu M10-4 servers](#) from Oracle that are not only more energy efficient and offer higher performance than previous systems, but take up to 75 percent less space. The Fujitsu M10 servers also employ high availability design in all levels of the server from the processor chip to the system integration to ensure 24/7 uptime for critical campus applications, especially during peak times such as enrollment or end-of-year activities.

"The Fujitsu M10-1 is a workhorse server and its increase in speed over our previous solution is a big plus," said Wayman White, Director of Information Services at College of the Albemarle. "Plus, the Fujitsu M10 has a much smaller footprint and offers us tangible energy savings. We also like the fact that more memory or capacity can be added as our needs grow. The Fujitsu M10 will easily satisfy our needs for the next six to seven years."

The new Ellucian software and Fujitsu M10 server solution has helped to reduce overall operating costs and boost productivity for these community colleges. It is used to manage day-to-day campus business processes at each community college, including student admissions and registration, accounting, payroll and human resources.

The Fujitsu M10 server and Ellucian software solution is deployed at twelve colleges so far, with more to deploy in the future as existing and aging hardware systems need modernizing. The colleges include:

- Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College
- Beaufort County Community College
- Catawba Valley Community College
- Coastal Carolina Community College
- College of The Albemarle
- Craven County Community College
- Davidson County Community College
- Halifax Community College
- Johnston Community College
- Piedmont Community College
- Pitt Community College
- Sandhills Community College

Why Oracle-Fujitsu

"Not only is the Fujitsu M10's price point particularly attractive, but it also allows us to easily increase the size of the system and its throughput capabilities for scalable growth," said Linda McDaniel, Director of Information Services at Catawba Valley Community College. "The Fujitsu M10 server also gave us the opportunity to add more local storage capacity, so we don't have to rely so heavily on our SAN for data storage."

The Fujitsu M10 family of servers includes dynamic scaling capabilities, which allow organizations to buy what they need now and pay as they grow, which greatly contributes to reduced costs.

"Previously, we were using Sun Fire V890 servers [from Sun Microsystems], but with the new Fujitsu M10-1 servers, we've seen a notable difference in both size and speed," said White. "Our old V890 system took up half the rack, while the new Fujitsu M10-1 is significantly smaller and uses just one small slot. We've also seen a boost in performance, with increased speed in services to students and staff."

Partner

The North Carolina Information Technology Services (ITS) chose Alphanumeric to host the 204C UNIX Workstations/Servers & Peripherals Term Contract. This contract allows the entire Community College System to easily procure equipment required to upgrade and modernize their campuses.

"Working with Alphanumeric to deploy the Fujitsu M10 Server-Ellucian solution was a great experience," continued McDaniel. "Alphanumeric has deep technical knowledge and they're extremely responsive. They planned, scripted, and automated everything for us, including two trial runs and a final production run, to make sure everything was in order when we went live."

Established: 1979

No of Employees: 600

Headquarters: Raleigh, North Carolina

Contact: Tarrie French, Sr. Account Manager, 919-244-8168, tfrench@alphanumeric.com

According to White, "Alphanumeric not only helped us through the whole process of deploying the Ellucian and Fujitsu M10 server solution, but they also help keep us 'ahead of the curve' by asking questions in anticipation of future trends and policies. They've been with us since day one and have always provided us with what we need."

"The Fujitsu M10 server is an ideal platform for higher education institutions because of its award-winning 'green' technologies, powerful performance and low price point," said Tarrie French, senior account executive at Alphanumeric Systems. "The Fujitsu M10 server fit the College's requirements for an easy and low-cost upgrade to the legacy SPARC processor-based systems to run their business critical database and applications. The schools that have adopted the Fujitsu M10-1 or M10-4 server have really experienced a huge performance boost at a very attractive price point."