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# PASS THE TEST: FIVE WAYS TO MEET THE DEMAND OF AN ALWAYS-ON CAMPUS

DISCOVER HOW COMPUTACENTER AND ARUBA CAN HELP YOU  
RESPOND TO THE HYBRID LEARNING CHALLENGE WITH STRONGER  
SECURITY, BETTER CONNECTIVITY AND RICHER INSIGHTS

LET'S GO





# PROVIDING CONSISTENT PHYSICAL AND DIGITAL EXPERIENCES

**The university campus is no longer just a physical entity; it's a thriving digital ecosystem connecting thousands of students, academics and research partners across the globe. And both physical and digital worlds are getting bigger by the day.**

More devices are being deployed. More apps are being launched. New students are being enrolled. And new learning facilities are being opened. Although these additions can bring greater choice, they can also bring greater complexity.

With around 60% of students saying they want online seminars and discussion forums to continue<sup>1</sup>, facilitating hybrid learning at scale remains one of the biggest challenges for the sector. And one of the biggest competitive differentiators.

Students' expectations have never been higher: they don't just want flexible learning options; they want value for money. And the most gifted students won't settle for anything less.

To attract the best talent and excel in the new hybrid world of higher education, universities must provide consistent digital and physical experiences that enable not just students but also other stakeholders to create and collaborate effectively and easily regardless of their location.

With so much at stake, it can be difficult to know where to start. From technologies and policies to analytics and skills, we look at five strategies that will help you successfully transition to a hybrid model.





## 1. STRONGER SECURITY:

# HOW TO PROTECT STUDENTS FROM PHYSICAL AND DIGITAL THREATS

There are thousands of cyber attacks on universities every week. And the volume, variety and velocity of these attacks will only intensify as hybrid learning models and digital interactions create more risks and entry points.

With remote learners, devices and sites extending the campus boundaries, traditional security controls based on the network perimeter are no longer sufficient.

By adopting a 'zero trust' approach to security, universities can authenticate and authorise every user and device while taking advantage of smarter policies and richer insights. Least access privileges can be linked to different personas and multi-factor authentication controls can be triggered by abnormal network activity or behaviour.

Universities also need to ensure that students are protected from physical threats both on and off campus. With location-based services, network access points can be leveraged to support the introduction of mobile panic buttons, electronic door locks and real-time incident notifications based on occupancy data.



## WHY STRONGER SECURITY MATTERS

- Prevents reputational and financial losses from data breaches
- Strengthens bids for research grants by demonstrating compliance with security standards



## 2. BETTER CONNECTIVITY:

# HOW TO BOOST PERFORMANCE AND RESILIENCE

**With students and staff spread across more sites than ever before, universities need to enable anytime anywhere learning and teaching. And that means providing anytime anywhere connectivity.**

Existing wired and wireless infrastructures were not built for the hybrid world and need to be transformed to support a growing number of users, devices, apps and cloud services. By undertaking a network audit, universities can identify – and plug – the connectivity gaps.

As well as scaling up capacity, universities need to improve resiliency and quality to deliver a seamless experience. Adopting a modern two-tier network architecture and smarter management strategies, such as self-healing policies and automated orchestration, will help to minimise complexity and maximise agility.

By enabling seamless connectivity on and off the campus, universities can provide students with greater flexibility. This means they can choose when how and where they learn, which can improve their wellbeing and attendance.

### WHY BETTER CONNECTIVITY MATTERS

- Increases student satisfaction and retention ratings
- Prevents disruption to tutelage, exams and research programmes
- Enables real-time collaboration at scale





### 3. SMARTER BUILDINGS:

# HOW TO OPTIMISE THE UTILISATION OF PHYSICAL SPACES

From labs to libraries, remote learning has transformed how campus facilities are used. Universities need to understand and adapt to these new utilisation trends to maximise their physical spaces and optimise their processes.

With a modern network infrastructure, IT teams can leverage wireless access points to introduce location-based services that increase operational efficiency

and enrich the student experience. For example, a location-aware wireless network can help with density planning, timetable scheduling and wayfinding services.

By combining richer network analytics with smarter building controls, universities can automatically trigger heating and lighting based on occupancy to cut energy consumption.

## WHY SMARTER BUILDINGS MATTER

- Reduces real estate costs
- Minimises carbon emissions



#### 4. SHARPER INVESTMENTS:

# HOW TO PRIORITISE PEOPLE



**The pandemic has changed the expectations and interactions of everyone in higher education – and universities need to ensure the right experiences and technologies are being offered to the right people.**

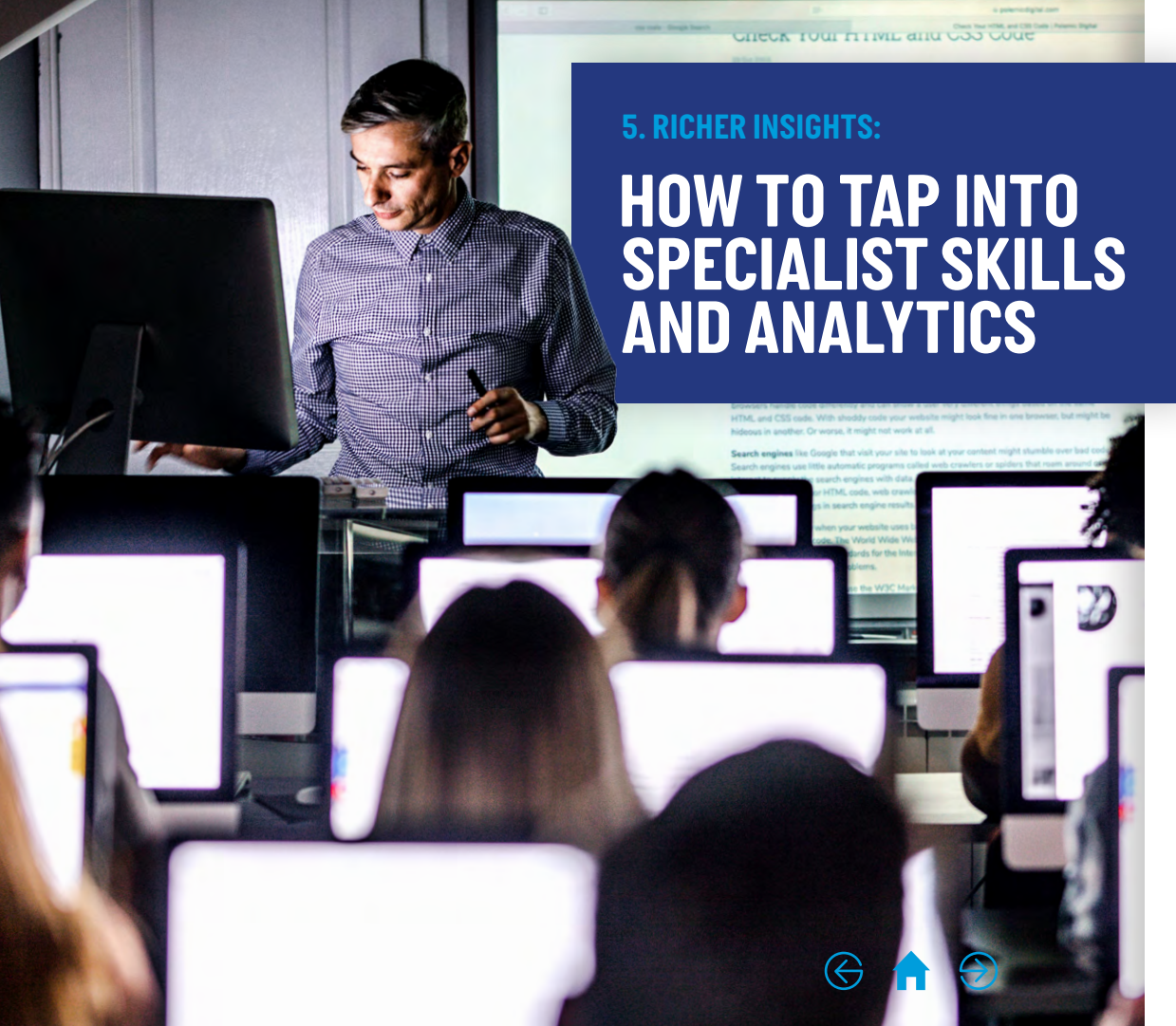
By profiling different personas and their workstyles, IT teams can gain a better understanding of current issues and future needs. As a result, business cases for new technology investments can be more closely aligned to enriching the user experience.

By putting people at the heart of their digital and hybrid learning initiatives, universities will be able to deliver greater value and better outcomes. They will be able to plan for the university that they want to be tomorrow not just today.

### WHY SHARPER INVESTMENTS MATTER

- Maximises return on investment
- Boosts reputation and competitive advantage





## 5. RICHER INSIGHTS:

# HOW TO TAP INTO SPECIALIST SKILLS AND ANALYTICS

To succeed in the competitive world of higher education, universities need to keep expanding and innovating. With internal IT teams already struggling to keep up with the rapid pace of change, universities need to find new ways to augment their resources.

Automation and analytics make it easier for IT teams stay in control of a growing digital and physical footprint. This improves not only efficiency but also service quality by enabling IT teams to proactively identify connectivity and security issues before they impact students and staff.

Partnering with skilled external providers and establishing managed services contracts can also help to free up internal teams, enabling them to spend more time on value-added activities.

## WHY RICHER INSIGHTS MATTER

- Minimises cost and complexity
- Accelerates growth and innovation



# TRANSFORM FASTER, REACT SMARTER

To attract new revenue and research opportunities, universities need to become masters at providing consistent experiences across physical campuses with digital ecosystems.

By partnering with Computacenter and Aruba, universities can transform faster and react smarter. We bring together the skills, services and solutions needed to adapt to a hybrid world of higher education and attract the best talent. We advise on new strategies. We procure new technologies. We design new solutions. We deploy new systems.

Computacenter and Aruba help universities establish the flexible and scalable foundations needed to drive meaningful social, economic and cultural change across the UK and beyond. We will help you overcome today's challenges and seize tomorrow's opportunities.

1. <https://wankhe.com/blogs/the-expectation-gap-ii-students-hopes-for-learning-and-teaching-in-the-next-normal/>  
2. <https://edtechmagazine.com/higher/article/2021/07/what-technologies-do-colleges-need-support-modern-students>  
3. <https://www.globenewswire.com/en/news-release/2021/10/06/2309366/0/en/As-battle-against-cybercrime-continues-during-Cybersecurity-Awareness-Month-Check-Point-Research-reports-40-increase-in-cyberattacks.html>  
4. <https://wankhe.com/blogs/educators-experience-of-digitally-enabled-learning-and-teaching-during-covid-19/>  
5. <https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/media/1480/insight-brief-10-nss-finalforweb.pdf>

50%

**OF HIGHER EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS BELIEVE WIFI IS THE MOST IMPACTFUL IT INVESTMENT FOR THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE<sup>2</sup>**

60%

**INCREASE IN CYBER ATTACKS ON EDUCATION ORGANISATIONS IN 2021<sup>3</sup>**

60%

**OF HIGHER EDUCATION SUPPORT STAFF ARE CONCERNED THEIR INSTITUTION HAS INSUFFICIENT EXPERTISE IN DIGITALLY ENABLED LEARNING TO PREPARE FOR THE FUTURE<sup>4</sup>**

47%

**OF STUDENTS WERE SATISFIED WITH THE DELIVERY OF LEARNING AND TEACHING ON THEIR COURSE DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC<sup>5</sup>**







**COMPUTACENTER AND ARUBA:**

# TRANSFORMING HIGHER EDUCATION TOGETHER

We have been working together to help organisations achieve better business outcomes with smarter IT solutions for more than 10 years

We have delivered dozens of successful transformation projects for public sector organisations, financial institutions and global enterprises

Computacenter is a Platinum Aruba partner and has been recognised as a Gold Campus Mobility Specialist

Headquartered in the UK, Computacenter employs more than 16,000 people and is committed to operating ethically and inclusively

Computacenter's team includes certified engineers and solution specialists with extensive knowledge of configuring, deploying and integrating Aruba's security and connectivity solutions

Aruba, a Hewlett Packard Enterprise company, has been recognised by independent analysts as the industry leader for wired and wireless LAN access infrastructure

The world's largest organisations rely on Aruba to provide secure connectivity solutions that span campus, branch, datacenter and remote working environments



# LET'S TALK

To find out more about how a Computacenter and Aruba solution can help you build the right foundations to be able to respond to the hybrid learning challenge, please contact your Account Manager directly. Alternatively, please use the contact details below:

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## About Computacenter

Computacenter is a leading independent technology partner, trusted by large corporate and public sector organisations. We help our customers to source, transform and manage their IT infrastructure to deliver digital transformation, enabling users and their business. Computacenter is a public company quoted on the London FTSE 250 (CCC.L) and employs over 16,000 people worldwide.

[www.computacenter.com](http://www.computacenter.com)



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