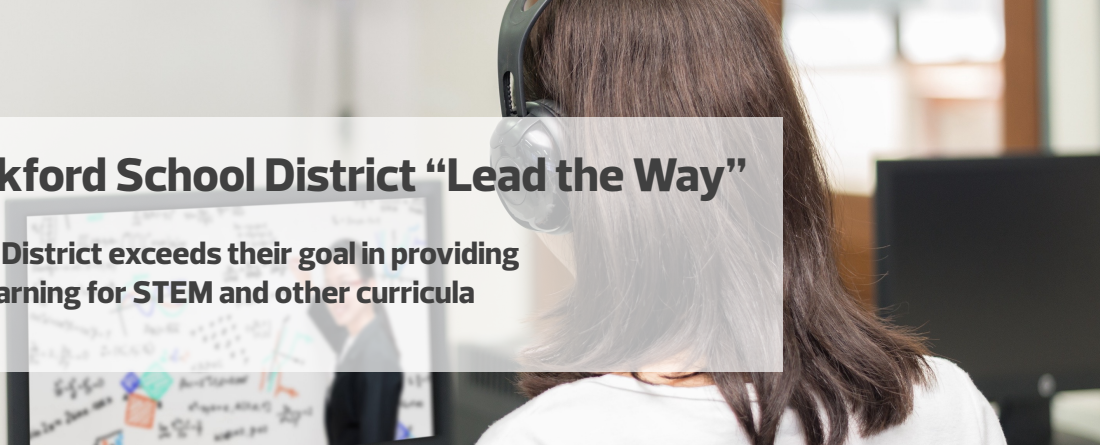


CDW Helps Rockford School District “Lead the Way”

Rockford Public School District exceeds their goal in providing High quality distance learning for STEM and other curricula



The Challenge

Project “Lead the Way” had to get up and running and it had to be operational in less than two months. Lead the Way is a project by RPSD to accomplish two goals:

- Provide access to specialty applications to students that need to use them. Rich and complex applications for STEM courses, Adobe and computer science applications.
- Move all physical lab requirements to the cloud.

With in-person classroom instruction either not possible or uncertain, RPSD opted to take charge and provide the full student experience remotely.

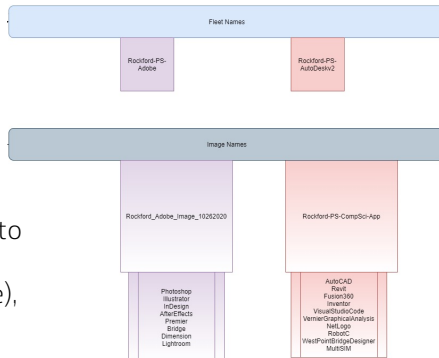
Two obstacles blocking the path were time and experience. In order to provide a meaningful and complete curriculum, RPSD needed to have the project completed and fully operational in 45 days. In addition, due to the tight timeline, there would be no pilot; from design directly to production. The second challenge was experience, RPSD had never been in the cloud and as such, had to have a partner they could trust to provide the solution they needed, in the time they required and at a cost they could afford.

The Solution

During the discovery sessions with RPSD, CDW met with the Director of IT and the rest of the team to discuss the applications RPSD wanted the students to have access to as well as the networking currently in place and what would be required.

Additionally, the team scoped licensing requirements as well as the time frames needed to upload and install.

CDW utilized CloudFormation templates to build out and ultimately deploy the AWS infrastructure. Due to the quantity of applications being supported (10 Autodesk and 8 Adobe), CDW actually created two golden images.



Quick View

Customer Overview

With almost 30,000 students, Rockford Public School District (RPSD) is one of the largest in Illinois. With unique and forward-thinking programs like The Gifted Academy, and The Two-Way Immersion Program, Rockford is a leading educational center.

The Challenge

2020 brought with it unique challenges for all, none more potentially daunting than the education of the nation’s children. RPSD needed to provide access to dense and complex specialty applications for students who needed to learn and study from home.

The Solution

CDW, working under tremendous time constraints, brought RPSD to the AWS cloud for the first time, helping provide application access via AWS AppStream.

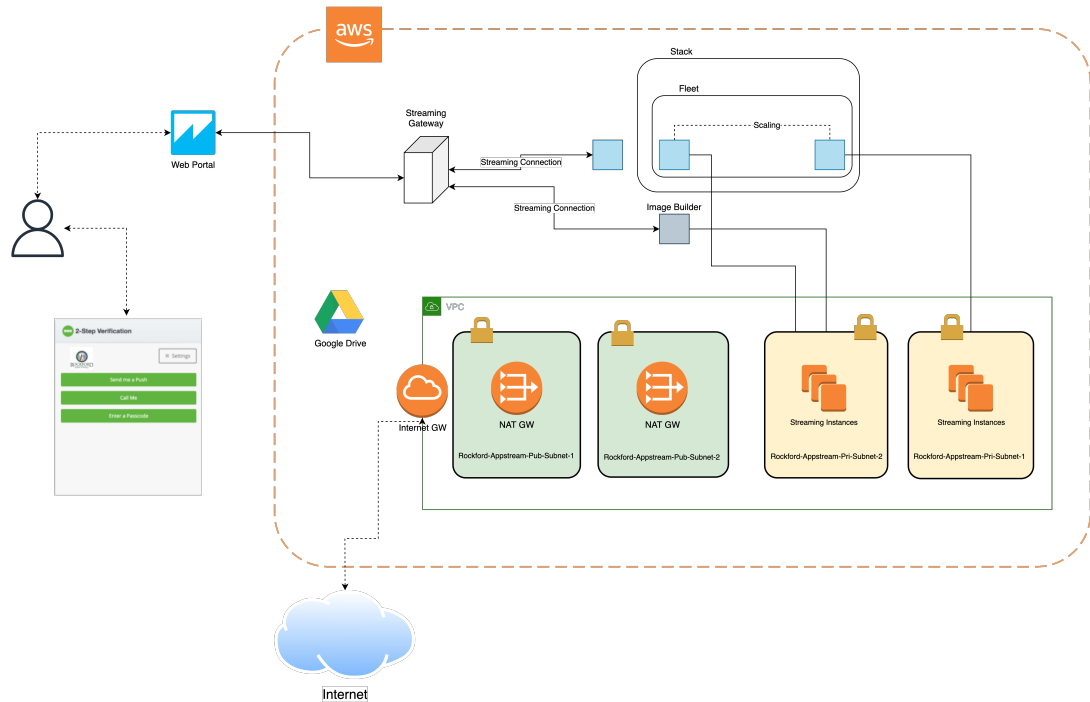
The Benefits

The project was completed on time, provided RPSD students with access to the Adobe, Autodesk and other applications in time for the school year. Not only were the applications accessible and the students needs met, the school can now scale the capacity on demand and pays only for what they actually use.



The Solution (continued)

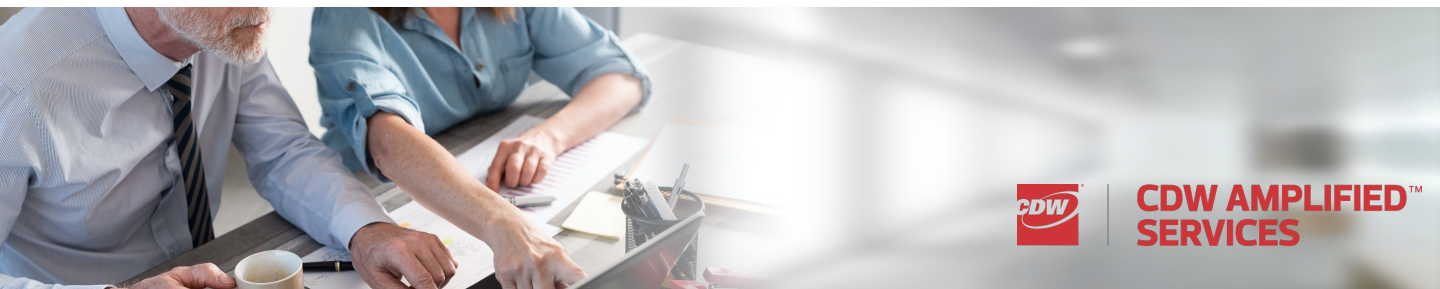
The graphic below presents a high-level, logical overview of the RPSD AppStream deployment. In this deployment, users enter their login credentials in DUO. Once authenticated through SSO, users are presented with an AppStream landing page listing their published applications. This architecture is highly available and secure leveraging multiple AWS services (VPC, IGW, Nat Gateway, Security Groups, Fleet Auto-Scaling, and IAM). This allow RPSD to scale-up and down as usage demands increase, while providing flexibility to turn off resources that are not needed after school hours.



Benefits

The districts had 1,837 seats and 49 classes that required high-end Windows computing to support Adobe Creative Cloud, Fusion 360, Autodesk and Visual Studio, but these applications could not be installed on the 2,000 Chromebooks for students in grades 9 to 12 (HS). Implementing the AWS AppStream solution instead of purchasing laptops, which was their alternative plan, saved the district over \$2.7M. Additionally, Rockford Public School district was able to meet their aggressive and critically important timelines and students were logging in and learning 45 days after the initial meeting. Not only do their students now have access to the tools they need to learn the complex STEM subjects this project was designed to provide, but the school gained a highly available, lower maintenance solution with increased flexibility and significantly more scalability. Finally, as the service runs in AWS, RPSD need only pay for what they use, saving them money that will be better spent on their students.

For more information, please contact: AWSSales@CDW.com



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