

Remote Access: St. Joseph's Leads the Way

St. Joseph's Preparatory School leverage's CDW Amplified™ Services and Amazon AppStream 2.0 to deliver Adobe Applications on Google Chromebooks

Customer Overview

Founded in 1851, St. Joseph's Preparatory School ("The Prep") is an urban, private, Catholic, college preparatory school in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, within the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. St. Joseph's mission is "to develop the minds, hearts, souls, and characters of young men in their pursuit of becoming men for and with others."

The Challenge

The Prep's Fine Arts department provides students with a robust catalog of courses including Photography, Graphic Design, Animation, and Multimedia Design. Delivering this cutting-edge curriculum has become increasingly reliant on technology.

In 2020, The Prep's leadership was considering how to best deliver Adobe [\[insert products here\]](#) to their students. These applications require significant compute and storage capabilities which historically has met specialized workstations. The school's fleet of workstations was due for an upgrade which prompted The Prep's staff to explore alternatives. One solution that caught their attention was Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI). VDI provides a "virtual desktop" experience from a centrally managed server. Although VDI delivered the functionality that St. Joseph's sought, they preferred a lower-cost solution that required less management. They also wished to leverage their investment in Google Chromebooks.

"Our Fine Arts Department depends on high-tech applications to deliver our curriculum and those applications require significant computing resources. We considered many alternatives but settled on Amazon AppStream delivered by CDWG. The solution was in place quickly and does what it supposed to do." – Mark D'Eramo, Director of Information Technology

The Solution

The Prep reached out to their long-time technology partner, CDWG. The Prep's requirements included:

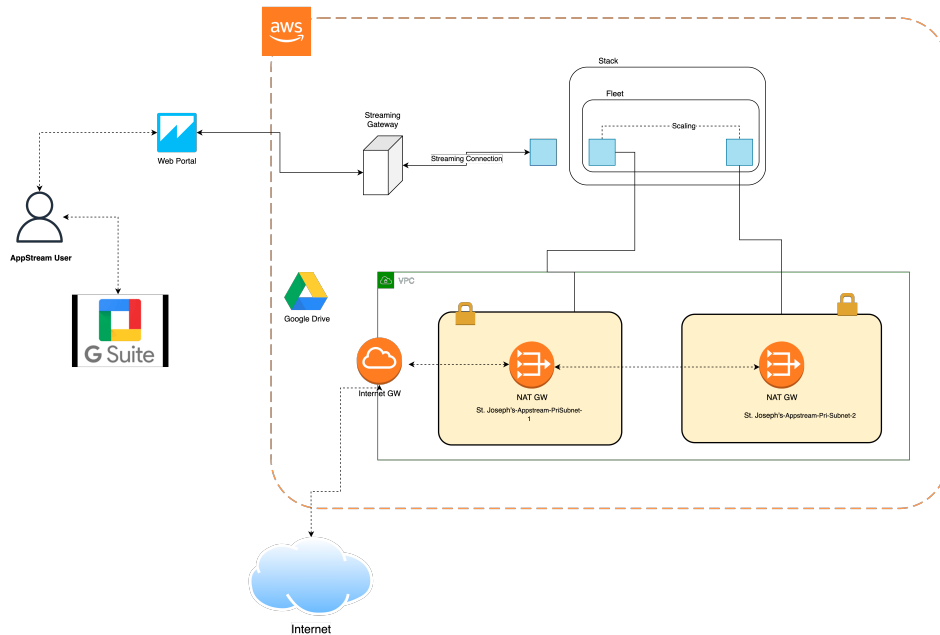
- Compatibility with Adobe [\[insert products here\]](#)
- Seamless integration with their Chromebook/Google Workspace (formerly Google GSuite) environment
- Ease of use/management
- A great student/educator experience
- A right-sized, budget-friendly solution



The Solution

The CDWG team recommended Amazon AppStream 2.0 to meet St. Joseph's needs. AppStream is an application virtualization service which is like Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI) but is lighter weight. AppStream virtualizes and streams individual applications rather than providing a full "virtual desktop" like VDI. AppStream is a fully managed AWS Service for which the user is only billed for what they use (as low as \$0.075 per hour).

To ensure that AppStream met St. Joseph's requirements, CDWG built a demonstration environment with their target Adobe applications. CDWG showcased AppStream's ease of deployment and seamless integration with Google Workspaces. Students were able to process media in the Adobe environment and save and share within the Google ecosystem. In June 2020, CDWG deployed AppStream on The Prep's behalf and continues to manage their AWS environment today.



“Technology in the classroom has to be very student-friendly and that’s exactly what CDW and AWS delivered!” – Jenna Robinson, Fine Arts Teacher

The Benefits

- Amazon AppStream provided the required features at a lower cost than Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI).
- AppStream provides the flexibility to add additional applications while the user only pays for what they use.
- The Prep was able to leverage technology they already invested in (Google Chromebooks/WorkSpaces) while avoiding a costly workstation refresh.
- The Prep requested that CDWG provide ongoing support and management of their AppStream and their AWS environment. CDWG Amplified™ Services provides the support to help keep The Prep's educators and students on learning, not the technology.

