

Central Institute of Technology, Australia chooses Enterprise Foundation to overcome key timetabling challenges and exceeds expectations

Enterprise Foundation chosen to overcome key challenges

Central Institute of Technology wished to solve a number of resource and timetabling challenges:

- Improving the visibility and verifiability of learning space usage across Central's campuses
- Taking control of the inequitable allocation of learning spaces across learning portfolios
- A coordinated approach to timetabling rather than the use of a number of disparate media e.g. spreadsheets, post-it notes and white boards
- The implementation of a centralised system that would aid in the forward planning of learning space resource needs
- The creation and ratification of a formal timetable policy and documented timetable process
- Resolving the issue of the double booking of space and other users being 'bumped out'
- Reports that were quicker and easier to produce
- Better graphical representation of timetables

To overcome these challenges, Central's Project Management Office (PMO) undertook four months of research investigating the Institute's actual learning space usage and inherent timetabling systems and processes. These findings were then contrasted with 'best practice' models from academic research papers, case studies and data, to establish how the Institute fared both nationally and internationally, in terms of learning space utilisation and policy implementation.

The outcomes of these findings were presented to Central's Executive and used to inform the drafting of a detailed tender document for the supply and maintenance of a commercial timetable solution. Upon recommendation by the PMO, the Project Control Group endorsed the selection of Central's Leederville campus for the initial pilot implementation of the Syllabus Plus Enterprise Foundation solution which was the unanimous winner of the software tender.

Any software chosen to meet these requirements needed to be able to provide a top-down view, coordinate resources from a centralised location, schedule learning space, staff and student resources across Central's five campuses and accommodate a number of concurrent users.

"The implementation of Syllabus Plus Enterprise Foundation has enabled a much more transparent view of actual rather than perceived learning space utilisation. Enterprise Foundation has also, via COGNOS reports, highlighted scheduled academic staff workload issues which, to the most part, were unexpected."

Steve Eggleston, Senior Strategic Analyst
Manager, Space Optimisation/Project & Space
Management, Central Institute of Technology

"The overall pilot implementation highlighted several work practices which provided an interesting insight into how various academic areas planned their course delivery. The implementation of Enterprise Foundation achieved the aim of making the Institute's room bookings more transparent. However, it is perhaps the revealing of associated work practices that was a surprising, yet invaluable finding with regard to staff timetabling practices in relationship to industrial award agreements."

Colin MacDonald, Chief Information Officer,
Central Institute of Technology



Enterprise Foundation could meet the challenges faced by Central and was selected for the following reasons:

- Its ability to network many concurrent users and resources across disparate locations
- The ability to integrate with the State Government supplied and maintained Unified Enrolment (UE) student management and enrolment system
- The demonstration in the tender submission of the use of the Prince II project methodology in the installation, set-up and preparation of the Enterprise Foundation solution
- The attractive purchase, set-up cost and support over a five year term
- A significant installed client base across Australia, South-East Asia and the UK
- Positive reference reports from local and national users of the Syllabus Plus family of products.

There have been other benefits realised which were not originally anticipated, notably the identification of staff workload issues. The software has exceeded expectations.

About Central Institute of Technology

Central Institute of Technology occupies five campuses in the heart of the Perth Metropolitan area. It offers around 400 nationally accredited training courses, across a wide variety of training areas and is the primary deliverer of higher-level technical and professional qualifications within the State of Western Australia. As one of Australia's largest training institutes, Central trains more than 30,000 students annually, including 1300 international students.

Further Information

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