

CASE STUDY

SALVE REGINA

A nationally recognized, coeducational, Catholic university, Salve Regina has since its opening in 1947, embraced a global mission to educate within a context of ethical living. True to the traditions of its founders, the Religious Sisters of Mercy, the institution serves the needs of approximately 2,500 undergraduate and graduate students by maintaining a commitment to seek wisdom and promote universal justice.

Xythos Chosen For Intuitive Interface and Standards-Based Architecture

Previously, Salve Regina gave each of its 2,500 students a shared network drive, but it was difficult to store, manage and back up student's work outside of the network. As a result, the University looked for an easier way to provide students with secure remote access to manage and share their files.

Salve Regina evaluated several solutions including Microsoft SharePoint, but concluded that it wasn't easy enough for students to use and adopt. Xythos, on the other hand, had an intuitive interface that required minimal training. Xythos was also based on open Internet standards, making it easy to deploy through Salve Regina's existing technology infrastructure.

"Because Xythos is based on open Internet standards, we were able to integrate it easily with our existing technology infrastructure," said Jason Black, Director of Web Services at Salve Regina University. "As a result, the roll-out has been very easy. It's only taken one resource to deploy, train and evangelize Xythos across our campus!"

Roll-Out Through University's Homegrown Portal

Salve Regina had an existing homegrown portal and decided to add Xythos, branded MyData, as a tab within it. The goal of this integration was to provide students and faculty with a seamless experience for accessing and sharing content inside MyData in addition to improving security via single sign-on authentication.

The first phase of the MyData introduction focused on addressing student file management needs. As students learned about Xythos, they began to use MyData to store their files instead of carrying around USB drives and floppy disks. Soon afterwards, faculty members at Salve Regina began expressing interest in using MyData to distribute classroom materials.



Key Facts

Product: Xythos Digital Locker

Audience: Students, Faculty and Staff

Why Xythos?

- Intuitive Interface
- Minimal Training and Support
- Worked with University's existing infrastructure

Benefits

- Addresses student file management needs
- Enables faculty to deliver course materials online
- Allows administrators to better manage document-intensive projects



“The more we learn about Xythos, more uses we see for it at the University. We plan to continue to leverage Xythos for many other projects and uses across the campus.”

Jason Black
Director of Web Services
Salve Regina University

**For more information
please call 1.888.4XYTHOS
or visit www.xythos.com**

Xythos Software, Inc.
655 Montgomery Street, 16th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94111

Next, the Academic IT team conducted workshops for faculty to educate them about the various academic and administrative uses of MyData. Students, on the other hand, only needed to be directed to MyData. Students found the interface very intuitive and easy-to-use. With the training, faculty began to build shared workspaces for each of their classes to post syllabi, lectures and reading assignments for students to download. Some faculty members even began to use Xythos to publish their own web pages.

University administrators and staff were the last group on campus to begin using Xythos. They are now using MyData to manage their documents for various projects, including accreditation, and to minimize email attachments and exchange documents more securely.

Xythos Being Used For Student ePortfolios, Accreditation

Xythos-powered MyData is being used at Salve Regina University in various innovative ways, including:

- **Creating Student ePortfolios:** Starting with the current freshman class, every student at Salve Regina must produce an eportfolio before graduation. Students have full control over their eportfolios, including granting who has access and other rights to their files. Each HTML page of each student's portfolio is mapped to a specific folder in Xythos. The automated folder creation and access control management customizations were completed with the assistance of Xythos professional services team.
- **Managing the Accreditation Process:** In preparation for the Education Department's recent accreditation review, Jason collaborated with faculty members to create an electronic portfolio known as the EDCfolio for students to archive and present their artifacts from student teaching and community services. Traditionally, students would accumulate huge paper portfolios, but with MyData, students were now able to accumulate and manage all their work online and include flash demos, PowerPoint presentations and other rich media. During the accreditation process, each member of the committee simply had to browse to a Xythos link (URL) which would connect them directly into the Xythos folder containing the material they needed to review.
- **Providing Video On-Demand:** The McKillop Library at Salve Regina is using MyData to deliver video on-demand service for the electronic reserves in the library. Previously, the Library stored its videos on an unmanaged web server for students to access, but the existing storage space quickly became overwhelmed. Now, the videos are placed and managed within MyData; the former links on the Library's homepage have been replaced with Xythos tickets, secure URLs, with individual expiration dates. Media files are also being securely distributed to students via class group lists and tickets.

“Results from students and faculty across the board have been very positive,” said Jason Black, Director of Web Services at Salve Regina University. “The more we learn about Xythos, more uses we see for it at the University. We plan to continue to leverage Xythos for many other projects and uses across the campus.”