

# Modernizing IT in Higher Education with Alabama State University's Migration to Microsoft

Alabama State University (ASU) is a student-centered public HBCU (Historically Black College and University) committed to excellence in teaching, research and service.

## SITUATION

Alabama State University began migrating from Google Workspace to Microsoft 365 (M365), but the project had encountered difficulties and was at risk of falling off track. Looking for a way to get things back on course, they turned to CrucialLogics based on a trusted recommendation. "We were impressed by the level of expertise that exists with M365 and the understanding with which we started this implementation. We were very appreciative of the implementation process, the meetings, the documentation, and the explanations," said Dr. Damian Clarke, VP, Technology Services.

## SOLUTION

CrucialLogics completed the migration and also helped secure the environment for the unique university setting, ensuring that the IT team was comfortable with the changes. "I feel like they gave me the confidence to manage my environment securely. They gave me the confidence to explain the changes they made to my faculty, staff, and the ASU community," said Carmen Ruise, Junior System Admin.

The project required a tailored approach that considered the university's unique environment, including the high demands of the academic calendar and the fact that many users needed access offcampus. "A lot of times other vendors would come with a script. CrucialLogics brought in the right team for us, which is not just about domain knowledge, but understanding of where we are at and what we need to get to where we would like to be," said Dr. Clarke.

CrucialLogics took the lead throughout the entire process, overseeing change management and guiding the project to a successful outcome. "I never felt like I was overwhelmed, or I was being pulled," said Carmen.

## RESULTS

Once the migration was complete and the user training has occurred, faculty members shared positive feedback, noting that they're now using Microsoft tools they were previously unaware of, enhancing their productivity and overall experience. Moreover, ASU now has a secure tenant that will provide the basis for future modernization projects."

*"Modernizing our campus infrastructure was a top priority—not just for efficiency, but for safety. Thanks to our partnership, we've implemented critical security upgrades and brought our systems into the modern era. These enhancements ensure ASU is better protected and well-equipped to support students and staff in a digitally connected world."*

— Dr. Quinton T. Ross, Jr., President of  
Alabama State University