

HELPING ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS GROW AND THRIVE

A public research university with an annual enrollment of over 44,000 students faced a particularly challenging time in 2020. Their already sprawling cloud environment was pushed to its limits by the COVID-19 pandemic; remote learning shifted virtually the entirety of their learning operations online. The university asked Propelex for a range of integrated solutions designed to protect students, support teaching staff, and carry on their academic mission within a drastically transformed environment.

TRANSFORMING A COMPLEX AND OUTDATED CLOUD SECURITY ENVIRONMENT

The Client's cloud environment had accreted over many years into a complex network of only semi-compatible platforms, technologies, applications, and processes. Their ability to manage key operations reliably was compromised, even without the added disruption of the pandemic.

The Client asked Propelex for an integrated solution to improve their cloud platform security capabilities:

1. Simplify and centralize control over cloud computing environments
2. Assess configurations and make necessary adjustments to meet best practices
3. Automate patching, updating and other critical but routine processes
4. Protect student and staff data
5. Minimize service interruptions and recover faster and better from incidents
6. Reduce complexity and enhance performance of compliance functions

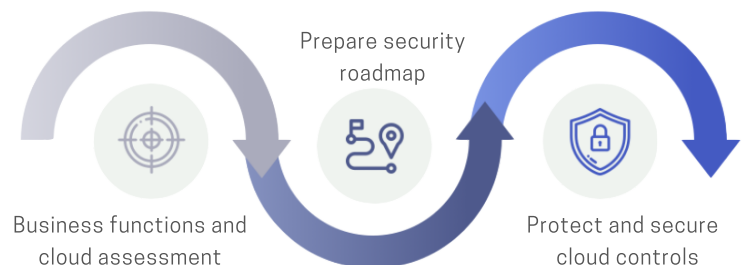


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APPROACH

Our approach is proven effective and designed to hit all the deliverables requested, within a solution framework customized for the Client:

- Understand organizational functions and assess their cloud environment
- Engineer a security road map designed to safely navigate the Client from current performance to the desired capabilities
- Protect, adjust, and add to the Client's resources, apply quality control measures, and verify the security gaps are sealed



SOLUTIONS DELIVERED

Comprehensive vulnerability audit:

A cloud platform security audit revealed a host of potential vulnerabilities, lingering risks, and dangerous threats. Automated and manual mitigation measures were applied, including patching and updating, system configuration adjustments, and deployment of advanced security applications. Staff and students can now use system resources with significantly less risk.

Appropriate user categorization:

Access control was bolstered using a more robust categorization system that fully differentiates students from staff, and segregates resources appropriately. The result is not just improved security, but also a better user experience for everyone.

Single-pane integration:

Numerous learning management systems, classroom scheduling services, and enterprise resource planning systems were manually consolidated within a single system of control. This reduced complexity system-wide and integrated control and visibility into a simple-to-manage unified platform. The Client's security functions are more effective and less prone to mismanagement.

Compliance verification and management:

The Propelex team verified that all solutions complied with the full range of the Client's regulatory requirements, including HIPAA, the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS), and state cybersecurity and privacy regulations. Cloud security performance was fully aligned with their security standards.

Robust security process automation and reporting:

AI and machine intelligence applications were implemented that accomplish routine security functions, including patching, updating, and reporting tasks. faster and better

security decisions. Process automation reduces errors, manages risk more effectively, and improves operational performance. The Client's data is being leveraged for environmental insights that allow

MEETING CUSTOMER NEEDS

The cloud permeates academic life, from admissions and human resources, to classroom instruction and residential life. Propelex understands the unique cloud security needs of schools, academic institutions, and learning environments. Our security solutions improve asset management, reduce risks, protect sensitive data from unauthorized disclosure and alteration, and promote a learning environment that is safer and more effective.

