Universidad Católica del Maule expands access to education with HP notebooks powered by AMD Ryzen™ CPUs

Reliable leading-edge mobile performance for high-achieving students to complete their studies with success

AMD RYZEN

CUSTOMER

UCM
UNIVERSIDAD CATÓLICA DEL MAULE

INDUSTRY

Education

CHALLENGES

Provide qualifying students with laptops that deliver performance and reliability for remote learning and running a range of educational software.

SOLUTION

Deploy HP laptops powered by AMD Ryzen™ 3000 Series processors.

RESULTS

Total reliability and leading performance for educational software.

AMD TECHNOLOGY AT A GLANCE

AMD Ryzen™ 3000 Series CPUs

TECHNOLOGY PARTNER

hp

The Universidad Católica del Maule (UCM) is a leading higher education institution in Chile, helping thousands of students build a better future through advanced learning every year. But UCM students, as well as students around the world, have struggled through difficult times recently, with the necessity of remote learning making education even more challenging.

To help address this situation and provide a valuable incentive as well, UCM wanted to reward high-achieving students with computers that would help them complete their studies successfully. HP notebooks powered by AMD Ryzen™ processors delivered exactly what the university required in a dependable machine for its learning environment.

Remote learning in difficult circumstances

"During the pandemic, students did not have access to the university premises," says Pablo E. Hormazábal Saavedra, vice chancellor of UCM. "Since all classes were virtual at that time, students needed computers that provided reliable connection to the remote classroom."

"We originally thought that many students had a computer at home, and we were surprised to find that in many cases they did not," says Cristian A. Matamala Gómez, director of information technology, UCM. "We also realized that for some of the students who did have a computer at home, it was also being used by other family members, making it difficult for those students to access virtual classroom content when needed."

UCM not only wanted to enable students to continue their studies remotely, but to also provide an incentive for them to strive for

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achievement and complete their courses. "Of the students identified as needing computers, we selected who would be awarded a machine based on their effort and academic performance," says Hormazábal Saavedra. The deployment was going to be larger than anything UCM had attempted in the past. "Never before had the university made such a massive delivery of computer equipment to its students."

"We started looking for a lightweight machine, but which also had the capacity to run a range of applications used in teaching engineering, medicine, health, and education," says Matamala Gómez. "The HP representative for education in our region told us that AMD was launching a processor model that could fulfill all these needs. We decided to bring a computer to the university and test it."

Reliably better performance

"We compared the 8th Generation Intel Core i3 with the AMD Ryzen™ 3000 Series processors and found that the AMD Ryzen™ 3000 Series processors offered performance that was well above the competition," says Matamala Gómez.

"We tested the applications that we use frequently here at the university, such as the entire Microsoft® Office suite, and IBM® SPSS® Statistics, for mathematical and quantitative analysis, and we had very good results.

One of the tests we did was to ensure that running Microsoft® Teams was optimal, because it can require a lot of resources. We tested the speed in loading the operating system. We even installed Autodesk® AutoCAD®, to see if the computer's performance met what we were looking for."

"We found that the performance was above what we expected," continues Matamala Gómez. "With the HP notebook powered by an AMD Ryzen™ 3000 Series CPU, the operating system loaded up to 5 percent faster. Opening Autodesk software was up to 15 percent faster. There was also better performance with Adobe® software compared to a laptop with an Intel processor." Battery life was comparable, but the AMD processor-powered notebook provided better performance.

After these positive results, UCM deployed 500 HP notebooks powered by AMD Ryzen™ processors. The notebooks have been exceptionally reliable and the feedback from students has been phenomenal. "We give these computers to students so that they can continue their studies, and the machines have been completely reliable with zero failure," says Matamala Gómez. "Students are very demanding," adds Hormazábal Saavedra "If they had a problem with the machine the issue would be immediately directed to the university, so we were very concerned about reliability. To date we have not received even one complaint about the HP laptops powered by AMD Ryzen™ 3000 Series processors, after almost a year since our first 500 were delivered."

"You can use the AMD processor-powered HP notebooks with complete confidence because you are going to get the expected results."

Cristian A. Matamala Gómez, director of information technology, Universidad Católica del Maule

Helping students move to a higher level

The new computers have provided an additional benefit beyond helping to enable remote learning. "This year, we have returned to the university," says Matamala Gómez. "We have a lot of space where students can connect to the network and do their studies. Thanks to the wider availability of these notebooks, more students can take advantage of it. We hope to continue growing this project."

"When these computers arrived, the students were really grateful. Many of them did not have a machine to connect to our network

before," continues Matamala Gómez. "Now, the students can finish their education successfully and it also serves as motivation. It was great for them to understand that if they had good academic standing during their first and second years, the university would recognize that. Not only for their socioeconomic situation, but also for their level of academic performance. We now want to continue the project for many years to come."

"We give the computers to the students in the third year, for use in the third, fourth and fifth years," says Hormazábal Saavedra. "After three years we will have 1,500 students with machines provided by the institution, which would be about 15 percent of the total enrollment. The Maule Region has high rates of economic vulnerability. A ranking came out recently from the Universidad Diego Portales in Santiago which determined an indicator of socioeconomic mobility of the 65 universities in Chile, and the Universidad Católica del Maule was in first place. Which means that students, after graduating, are able to move, not only themselves, but also their families from a low socioeconomic position to a much higher level."

"We are already planning to make another purchase for this year to continue with the project," concludes Matamala Gómez. "This technology has really solved an important problem for us. The best recommendation I could give you is that the notebook's failure rate is zero. You can use the AMD processor-powered HP notebooks with complete confidence knowing you are going to get the expected results. Our university computer fleet was practically all Intel based. Now that we have been giving these computers to students, we are strongly evaluating the possibility of deploying AMD processors in the rest of our workstations."

Universidad Católica del Maule

Universidad Católica del Maule (UCM) is an autonomous, non-profit higher education institution located in the Maule region of Chile. According to its Christian values, UCM seeks the meaning of science and technology to put it at the service of people's integral development, with quality research and knowledge delivery in accordance with the needs of the environment and its sustainability. The university has a population of 10,500 students. For more information visit portal.ucm.cl.

About HP

Our vision is to create technology that makes life better for everyone, everywhere – every person, every organization, and every community around the globe. This motivates us – inspires us – to do what we do. To make what we make. To invent, and to reinvent. To engineer experiences that amaze. We won't stop pushing ahead, because you won't stop pushing ahead. You're reinventing how you work. How you play. How you live. With our technology, you'll reinvent your world. For more information visit hp.com.

About AMD

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