

Supporting students both on and off campus.

How **Ashkelon Academic College** serves a growing student body by ramping up remote learning services with a hyperconverged infrastructure from Lenovo and Nutanix.

Lenovo Infrastructure Solutions
for The Data-Centered

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Background

One of the largest and most prestigious academic centers in Israel, Ashkelon Academic College (AAC) provides teaching and research opportunities to more than 6,000 students. The college offers both undergraduate and postgraduate degree courses, specializing in the social sciences, health sciences, natural sciences, and humanities. AAC's 1,000-strong teaching team includes some of the country's most prominent academics.

Founded in 1965 with the aim of improving access to higher education in southwestern Israel, AAC has enjoyed huge success. Enrollments have increased continuously, and the college aims to triple the size of its student body in the coming years.

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Challenge

To support a growing student population, AAC depends on its digital systems. The college looked to refresh the three-tier infrastructure underpinning these essential IT services with a more flexible, future-proof solution.

Shai Cohen, Head of Information Technology and Digital at AAC, comments: "Our previous infrastructure was based on an assortment of server, storage, and networking equipment from multiple vendors. It was complex to manage and difficult to scale. We targeted greater agility and simplicity."

Dr Pinchas Haliwa, CEO and Founder of AAC, confirms: "Technological development is a top priority for us. We must offer fast, reliable, and convenient IT services to support students' education."

Why Lenovo and Nutanix? Leading the way in HCI.

To simplify and modernize IT operations, AAC chose to replace its traditional three-tier environment with a state-of-the-art hyperconverged infrastructure (HCI) from Lenovo and Nutanix.

“We briefly considered replacing our server and storage solutions like-for-like, but after looking at what was available on the market, we quickly realized that HCI was the best way forward,” recalls Cohen. “The Lenovo ThinkAgile HX platform met all our requirements in terms of flexibility and scalability.”

During a six-month proof-of-concept (POC), the college worked closely with teams from Lenovo and Nutanix to size and test the solution.

Cohen says: “We were so impressed by the commitment and support from the Lenovo and Nutanix teams throughout the POC process. They were available whenever we needed them, 24/7.”





“The combination of industry-leading Nutanix software and reliable, high-performance Lenovo hardware is hard to beat.”

Shai Cohen

Head of Information Technology and Digital, Ashkelon Academic College

Overhauling IT.

During the summer vacation period when its IT systems were in lower demand, AAC implemented a three-node Lenovo ThinkAgile HX3320 cluster at its data center and a second three-node cluster in a separate building on campus.

Deployed in an active/active configuration, data is replicated across the two locations in real time, enabling near-instant failover in the event of an outage at one site.

AAC runs its core student management system, digital learning solutions, back-office applications, and other key administrative systems on the production cluster. The disaster recovery (DR) cluster supports the college's virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI) environment.

To meet increased demand for VDI services and remote learning capabilities in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, AAC recently expanded its secondary cluster with an additional three Lenovo ThinkAgile HX3320 nodes.



“We were working to a very tight deadline, and the Lenovo and Nutanix teams went the extra mile to help us get everything set up and ready in time for the new academic year.”

Shai Cohen

Head of Information Technology and Digital,
Ashkelon Academic College

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Results

With the Lenovo ThinkAgile HX platform, AAC can manage all its compute and storage resources as a single, virtual pool using Nutanix Prism and Lenovo XClarity software, simplifying infrastructure management while offering easy flexibility and scalability.

“We already know from experience just how easy the Lenovo ThinkAgile HX platform is to scale,” says Cohen. “When lockdown restrictions came into place, we were able to ramp up our remote learning services extremely quickly. Increasing the capacity of our VDI environment was as simple as adding new nodes to the cluster.”

AAC continues to expand, and the agility and scalability of the Lenovo ThinkAgile HX platform will become even more important in the years to come.

“Our student population is growing fast, and we must be able to scale IT services to meet demand,” says Cohen. “HCI from Lenovo and Nutanix is the ideal platform to support our growing college community.”



**Easy scalability
enabled rapid
expansion of
remote learning**



**Greater agility and
flexibility than
previous three-tier
architecture**



**Reduces time
spent on IT
infrastructure
management**



“With HCI from Lenovo and Nutanix, we have a reliable, performant, and scalable platform underpinning our IT services, enabling us to support a growing student body.”

Shai Cohen

Head of Information Technology and Digital, Ashkelon Academic College

What will you do with Lenovo ThinkAgile HX solutions?

The Data-Centered support students' education
with Lenovo smarter infrastructure solutions.

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