

Case study

Wentworth Institute of Technology introduces large-format color printing



HP PageWide XL printers provide exceptional quality at an affordable price

Challenge

- Wentworth Institute of Technology's older mono printers were proving unreliable and causing delays
- The university wanted to introduce one consolidated color print platform that could provide outstanding quality at a high speed
- Wentworth also needed to enable photo-realistic color prints within the Department of Industrial Design

Solution

- Wentworth evaluated the market with trusted MPS partner, Toshiba Business Solutions, and deployed four HP PageWide XL 4500 Printers and one HP DesignJet Z6800 Production Photo Printer. Together, these printers provide stunning quality prints at twice the speed, and with no increase in cost

Results

- Print speeds have doubled, reducing queues and user frustration
- Smart printing, using PaperCut software, has reduced wasted paper, energy, and ink
- Reliability and ease of management has reduced the burden on the IT team
- Students no longer rely on expensive print shops for large-format color prints



“All we hear is how great the quality is – so crisp and clear, which is vital for subjects like architecture that depend on line drawings. It also helps that we use 24-bond paper, which adds to the accuracy.”

– Tristan Cary, director of technical services, Wentworth Institute of Technology



Wentworth Institute of Technology had several aging mono printers that were becoming unreliable and struggling to cope with ever-increasing demand. The university wanted to replace them with large-format color printers that could deliver the quality required by technical subjects at high speeds and affordable costs. Wentworth deployed four HP PageWide XL 4500 Printers across the campus, as well as one HP DesignJet Z6800 Production Photo Printer to produce photo-quality prints in the Industrial Design department.

“Previously, our design students would have gone to a print shop and paid \$20 for a photo-quality print. Now they pay \$3 in-house – that makes a big difference to someone on a budget. Our HP large-format printing solution saves not only the students money, but also the school. We are able to vastly reduce wasted paper, ink, and energy, and those savings are passed on to users.”

– Tristan Cary, director of technical services, Wentworth Institute of Technology

Industry:

Education

Company name:

Wentworth Institute of Technology

Location:

Boston, MA

HP equipment:

HP PageWide XL 4500 Printer

HP DesignJet Z6800 Production Photo Printer

Website:

wit.edu



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Challenge

Expanding large-format capabilities

Founded in 1904 as an engineering college, Wentworth Institute of Technology was recently awarded university status and now offers a wide range of subjects, including design, construction, and computer studies. Wentworth's traditions and the vision upon which it was founded make the university distinct. Its leadership has developed a series of comprehensive and collaborative strategic plans designed to ensure that students receive an education of exceptional value.

Part of this value is delivered by working with the latest technologies. However, as an educational institution, this is balanced with a need to be fiscally responsible. When Wentworth's existing mono printers started to age and become more unreliable and no longer able to cope with print volumes, it wanted to find a cutting-edge color replacement that wouldn't break the bank.

“We have to be forward-thinking and progressive, preparing our students for the real world and the technologies they might expect to use there,” explains Tristan Cary, director of technical services at Wentworth Institute of Technology. “Our students expect 24/7, reliable on-demand service with fast, high-quality output. Fifteen years ago, this wouldn't have been possible on our budget, but the market has evolved enormously.”

Working with existing Managed Print Services partner, Toshiba Business Solutions, Wentworth evaluated several different large-format print vendors and, following careful consideration, decided that the HP PageWide XL 4500 Printer was the best match for its requirements.

“We have a desktop printer that uses HP PageWide technology in the office, so we were familiar with the speed and quality, and were pleased to learn that there was a large-format option as well,” adds Cary. “It provides the same speed and quality at an affordable cost, making it a great fit for us.”

Solution

A flexible print environment

Wentworth installed four HP PageWide XL 4500 Printers, which combine monochrome and color printing, as well as scanning and copying. It also deployed an HP DesignJet Z6800 Production Photo Printer in its Department of Industrial Design, where photo-realistic output is required.

Together, the printers produce thousands of pages each week. For the students, the process couldn't be simpler: using PaperCut software, they can tap their ID cards on the reader attached to the HP device, which then provides a cost, and automatically retrieves the print and displays a mock-up on the touchscreen. This eliminates significant amounts of waste.

“It's easy for students to cancel jobs rather than waste the paper, ink and energy. For example, in one month alone, 65,000 pages were cancelled – that's equivalent to 81% of a tree,” continues Cary. “At the same time, it is an incredibly user-friendly interface that our students love.”

As print volumes continue to rise, so does the demand for color. Cary estimates that 90% of large-format prints are in color. Thankfully, the HP PageWide XL printers can handle the demand.

Results

Speed, quality and reliability

Wentworth has been using the HP printers for two years and, in that time, the feedback has been very positive. There hasn't been a single complaint about the HP devices.

“All we hear is how great the quality is – so crisp and clear, which is vital for subjects like architecture that depend on line drawings. It also helps that we use 24-bond paper, which adds to the accuracy,” says Cary. “For that extra photo quality in the design department, the HP DesignJet printing to satin paper has been very impressive.”

However, it is not only the quality that impresses users; it is also the speed. Students who were used to lengthy wait times for large-format prints now find the process much faster because the print speed has doubled. Furthermore, costs remain affordable to the students.

“Previously, our design students would have gone to a print shop and paid \$20 for a photo-quality production. Now, they pay \$3 in-house – that makes a big difference to someone on a budget,” comments Cary. “Our HP large-format printing solution saves not only the students money, but also the school. We are able to save money through the vast reduction in wasted paper, ink, and energy and those savings are passed on to users.”

Wentworth is also benefiting from the ease of management and maintenance. On the rare occasion something does go wrong, HP technicians arrive within 24 hours to fix it. From a management perspective, Cary claims that the HP devices make no demands on his time or resources. Because of the success of these printers at the university, they are interested in working with HP in other areas.

“Envious department heads have told me they want an HP PageWide XL printer, particularly the marketing department, which outsources a lot of its prints,” concludes Cary. “We are also looking at introducing HP laptops across campus. My experience of working with HP is of a reliable, caring, professional partnership, so it makes sense to extend that to new parts of the organization.”

Learn more at

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