

Boise State University modernizes critical infrastructure with Vertiv™ SmartMod™



A Vertiv Case Study



Background

[Boise State University](#), located in Idaho, United States, excels in academic innovation and serves a diverse student body. The university supports rapidly expanding research by providing modern facilities and comprehensive educational programs. Through its commitment to excellence, Boise State aims to drive growth and development across various disciplines.

Challenge

Boise State University's aging infrastructure presents unique challenges in supporting the growing data processing needs and research activities of its educational programs. Retrofitting data centers in buildings not originally designed for them has created complex systems where upgrades risk disrupting data operations and daily campus activities.

The university's use of comfort cooling systems for critical infrastructure in a desert climate introduced challenges that potentially required substantial investments to resolve. Additionally, the combination of old and modern elements necessitates innovative strategies to maintain reliable, scalable infrastructure that can adapt to evolving needs.

To address these problems, Boise State needed a streamlined, dedicated solution that provided operational flexibility and enhanced efficiency without the complexities of traditional construction.



Company profile

Boise State University is a renowned institution committed to academic excellence and innovation, offering its students a diverse range of programs and state-of-the-art facilities.

Industry:

Education

Region:

Idaho State, United States.

Solution

Boise State University partnered with Vertiv to tackle its infrastructure challenges. Vertiv presented Boise State with various options and tailored the installation to meet specific needs, leading to the implementation of the [Vertiv™ SmartMod™](#) modular data center solution. This customized and preconfigured unit seamlessly integrated with Boise State's evolving technology architecture, transitioning the university from several outdated server rooms to a more efficient, hyper-converged infrastructure.

Deploying the Vertiv™ SmartMod™ significantly reduced onsite construction. The modular data center was manufactured and integrated in parallel with Boise State University site construction. The pre-integrated, factory-tested modular data center arrived on campus and was swiftly installed on a prepared concrete pad with essential conduit connections. This approach avoided prolonged construction periods and potential disruptions onsite, quickly transforming a simple foundation into a crucial component of the campus's infrastructure.

The collaboration with Vertiv showcased a scalable, reliable, and modern data design that met the current demands of Boise State while allowing flexibility for future growth.

Outcome

The implementation of Vertiv™ SmartMod™ transformed Boise State University's infrastructure, resulting in several notable outcomes:

- Increasing computing and storage density significantly reduced the university's physical footprint, eliminating the need for a massive data center.
- Vertiv™ SmartMod™ data center design provided a dedicated, standalone space, allowing the university to avoid the constraints of shared infrastructure.
- The transition gave Boise State complete control over its physical infrastructure, enhancing efficiency and operational flexibility.
- The improved capacity supports the university's growing educational and research demands while optimizing resource management.

“Although we tried to keep our build as standard as possible, Vertiv will absolutely build you whatever you want. I feel like our situation was an outlier in their business, like most other customers were looking to heavily customize their units, which was something [Vertiv] was very familiar with.”

[Tory Jamison](#),
Executive Director of Cloud
Services and Infrastructure at
Boise State University



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