



Corporate Case Study

New York Law School

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- John Southard, Chief Technology Officer of New York Law School

The Challenge

New York Law School (NYLS), one of the oldest and most prestigious independent law schools in the United States, is located in lower Manhattan near the city’s centers of law, government, and finance. The Law School’s renowned faculty of prolific scholars has built its strength in such areas as constitutional law, civil and human rights, labor and employment law, media and information law, urban legal studies, international and comparative law, and a number of interdisciplinary fields. The Law School's continued vitality springs from the faculty's active commitment to legal education and scholarship, as well as a curriculum that infuses theoretical analysis with the strategic and ethical questions that make the practice of law an unending challenge. To further strengthen its leadership role in the education community NYLS also embraces technological advancements including the use of video learning platforms which greatly increase retention of information and enhance learning potential. This is evidenced in its adoption of Class Capture technology, a streaming media-teaching platform, which records lectures for replay, review, and distribution. With a long-term plan to advance its technology across multiple buildings, NYLS strives to lead in technological innovation, bringing the best learning environment and applications to its students and faculty. Unfortunately, solutions at the time were quite limited as it was physically impossible to directly connect its buildings, including its 40 Worth Street and 185 West Broadway Street locations. The Law School also needed a way to directly connect its video channels throughout the campus in order to serve its Class Capture program effectively.

The Solution

After considerable research for an optimal network solution over a five year period, the NYLS team consulted with Lexent Metro Connect. Collaborating with Lexent's experienced engineering teams and the school’s own IT architect with a specialty in the educational sector, NYLS deployed its own private dark fiber network between two of its core educational sites. Lexent constructed a private dark fiber route across Worth Street connecting the 40 Worth Street building to the 185 West Broadway campus, providing NYLS with 24 dedicated fiber strands between its data center and these key satellite facilities. The Lexent dark fiber solution evolved NYLS' existing network architecture, while establishing a cutting-edge

foundation to prepare for future growth. The expanded capabilities, flexibility, and scalability of the Lexent solution goes far beyond the bandwidth restrictions of NYLS' previously leased connections. "The improved network technology from Lexent Metro Connect provided a solid foundation to evolve our network in the service of our teaching and learning goals," commented John Southard, Chief Technology Officer, New York Law School. "By owning our dark fiber network, New York Law School controls its own infrastructure fabric, allowing any application that the network and system transport to serve our user community."

The Results

As a result of this dark fiber deployment, NYLS' technology is changing with the higher education landscape. NYLS' Class Capture capability has been enhanced considerably from owning its own dark fiber network – students and professors can now visually see classes conducted on any of its campuses via web-based streaming media applications from Sonic Foundry, Apple's iTunes University - the mobile educational site of iTunes, or desktop and enterprise class video teleconferencing applications. NYLS is quickly amassing a repository of class content and guest lectures comprising a rich educational content store to be leveraged for greater teaching and learning opportunities.

Streaming media has become an integral part of NYLS' mastery-based and distance learning deployments. With Lexent's dark fiber, NYLS has improved its video and media distribution platforms helping to make it one of the premier and technologically advanced law schools in the nation. "With Lexent's cost-effective dark fiber solution, NYLS has increased control of its campus network architecture allowing the school to ultimately deliver state-of-the-art rich-media programs," commented Joe Compagno, Director of Strategic Infrastructure Development, New York Law School. "The programs serve our goals of improving the overall learning experience for students and achieve increased opportunities for preparation to confidently sit for the bar exams. There's no comparison to five years ago, before the deployment," stated Mr. Compagno.

Future expansion plans possibly include deploying Lexent dark fiber to connect the law school's East Village dormitories along with several other campus locations, providing a closely-knit university environment with the same high bandwidth and flexibility. The law school will be able to also expand to additional floors within its 40 Worth location, as well as an upgrade to the 185 West Broadway data center currently running a 20Gbps backbone.

The Lexent dark fiber solution not only solved NYLS's challenges of interconnecting campus buildings and upgrading its rich media distribution channels, but they also received numerous added benefits, furthering its technology goals and efforts.