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Houston Community College Launches Searchable Online Class Schedule in a Few Short Weeks

Industry
Education

Challenge
The Print and eMedia department at Houston Community College is responsible for updating the HCC website with new and relevant information for the student body and faculty. The existing class schedule was increasingly expanding and only available in PDF format, making it difficult and time-consuming to manage thousands of records of class information. With only a few weeks until open registration, the college needed to quickly transfer its course information to a searchable online database so students could find, compare and register for classes on the website.

Solution
The college discovered Caspio and imported over 15,000 records of existing class schedule information into the online database in just a few clicks. The step-by-step wizards made it easy for HCC to build the applications themselves without any outside IT resources or programming. The result was a completely customized interactive online class schedule that scaled on-demand as it quickly became popular among students, increasing external traffic to the HCC website.

With six satellite locations and 4,400 faculty spread throughout the Houston area, Houston Community College had to juggle the collection, organization and distribution of large amounts of curriculum information and class schedules. As the college expanded, the traditional PDF format became overbearing and sluggish. HCC signed up for a free 14-day trial of Caspio and quickly built an online class schedule database that had both students and faculty excited by the application's performance, ease-of-use and added functionality.

A Vision of Change

Since opening its doors in 1971, Houston Community College has earned a reputation for forward-thinking methodology and diversity, educating over 1.3 million students with a diverse student population from around the world. As a non-profit college, this means consistently finding new and innovative ways to offer the best quality resources and services without increasing costs for students. Recently, a complete overhaul of a manual class schedule system fell under the supervision of Joe Conway, Director Print and E-Media in the Public Information Office.

Interactive Class Schedule Application Powered by Caspio

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HCC Builds Searchable Online Class Schedule with Caspio Bridge

Tasked with creating a searchable online database of all available classes before the next registration period opened, Joe needed to find an affordable, quick-to-market, and comprehensive solution to launch a complex web application in only a few short weeks.

Determined to meet the aggressive deadline while keeping costs low, Joe began looking for alternatives to traditional programming. Spikes in web traffic during peak registration periods also meant that he needed a highly-scalable infrastructure that could handle 100,000 database transactions or more each day, and uphold the required performance standards of the HCC website. That's when Joe found Caspio.

"During peak times, we have between 1 and 2 million page views a month. Caspio's scalable platform allows us to meet that demand easily," said Conway. "And since our application requirements change constantly, it was a huge relief that Caspio makes it simple for any one of us to update our apps within minutes."

> **" If you want to publish videos online, you use YouTube. If you want to publish databases online, you use Caspio. "**
>
> **Joe Conway,** Director, Print and E-Media, Houston Community College

Conway's team completed the project without involving IT resources, and the added functionality resulted in increased page views across the website. "The PDFs didn't get a tenth of the traffic that our online database now gets," said Conway. "Soon we plan to move our entire college catalog online, listing all the programs students can take in an easy-to-read, searchable format."

The Means to Success

Caspio's do-it-yourself platform enabled Joe and his team to design and deploy the entire class schedule as a web-based searchable database using simple point-and-click wizards. Because they were empowered to create a highly-customized application instead of using one-size-fits-all traditional software, they successfully designed an application to the exact requirements of HCC. "Our college is known for its diverse offering of classes and educational programs," said Conway. "With Caspio, we can publish that large amount of detailed information online in a way that makes it easy for both students and faculty to use."

More Functionality, Less Budget

With the success of the online class schedule, Conway began to create other apps to boost the functionality of the HCC website. Visitors now enjoy streamlined online registration, meeting request forms, and a mobile app to find recent graduates. "As a public college, we have a lot of responsibility on a tight budget. Caspio simply helps us do more with less."

Caspio Bridge has a proven track record of enabling its customers to save significant IT resources while decreasing time-to-market. To learn more about Caspio's education solutions for K-12, colleges and universities, visit http://www.caspio.com/education.

Visit www.caspio.com/education for a free trial and project consultation.