



TIP SHEET

TOP REASONS IGEL IMPROVES SECURITY AND DISTRIBUTED LEARNING IN HIGHER EDUCATION

In institutions of higher education, technology innovation is pivotal to the student, faculty, and staff experience, even impacting university rating. The benefits of remote desktop services (RDS), virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI), and cloud workspaces are only fully realized when the endpoint is secure and standardized. Let's look at how IGEL can help alleviate frequent challenges and enable a secure and flexible learning environment.

SIMPLIFY MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL

IT administrators often struggle with time-consuming administration of disparate, complex, and slow management tools. Managing and updating images and firmware by touching each endpoint device across diverse locations with variable bandwidth is particularly tedious. Temporary but sharp influxes in resources during examination periods place further demands on IT teams.

1. Quick and easy zero-touch deployment of IGEL OS with IGEL Universal Management Suite (UMS) software makes it possible for one administrator to optimize, image, and control up to 300,000 endpoints from a single console. Even those devices located at dispersed campuses or off-campus with IGEL Cloud Gateway (ICG).
2. Drag-and-drop profiling, and a "buddy update" minimizes bandwidth consumption, and avoids the time-consuming and error-prone patching typical for many dispersed Windows endpoints.
3. Provisioning a standard, unified examination setting and campus branding on different IGEL OS endpoint devices quickly and remotely via UMS standardizes the student experience.
4. The IGEL Shared Workplace feature provides user-specific profiles linked to account login details within Active Directory. Devices that are used by multiple people (e.g., lab or library workstations) can be automatically configured to the student or administrator by role or function, session type, or peripheral device settings based on policies set in the UMS.

Shifting end-user computing resources to centralized data center or cloud environments with IGEL OS and UMS reduces endpoint complexity, eases endpoint management and control, and minimizes security exposure.

SECURITY AND COMPLIANCE

Strict compliance with GDPR standards to protect personal identifiable information (PII) and intellectual property (IP) is difficult to attain and manage across diverse environments.

1. IGEL OS does not store any intellectual or student data on the endpoint. Modular by design; unused features can be turned off. Keeping endpoint devices "lean" minimizes the attack surface. This, along with the read-only file system, makes IGEL OS even more tamper resistant.
2. IGEL's complete "chain of trust" verifies each step of the boot-up process from the user hardware/UEFI to the destination VDI host or cloud workspace. A secure browser can be configured for safe user access to web apps and cloud-based DaaS offers including Amazon Web Services (AWS) and Windows Virtual Desktop (WVD) from the Microsoft Azure cloud.

3. Multi-factor authentication plays an important role in controlling access to student and staff files, research reports, and varied workspaces. IGEL OS helps ensure high-level access control via an integrated PKCS11 library that supports authentication and single sign-on technologies with the use of almost all smart card readers.

OPTIMIZE USER EXPERIENCE AND IT BUDGET

Hardware replacement “refresh” is typically required every 3 or 4 years, which is extremely costly and disruptive in an education environment. In addition, the popularity and demand from students to access resources from anywhere and from their personal devices makes providing a secure and reliable solution even more challenging.

1. Out-of-date hardware – PCs, laptops, and thin clients can be converted to an IGEL OS-powered endpoint within minutes. IGEL OS runs on any compatible x86-64 device, so endpoint hardware refreshes can be significantly delayed or bypassed altogether. This minimizes disruption, unleashes IT budget, and supports green IT practices.
2. The IGEL UD Pocket and UD Pocket2, with USB-C connector, enable a secure BYOD and distance learning experience. Simply insert the UD Pocket into a compatible device USB port, boot IGEL OS, and log in to securely access curriculum and other digital resources anytime, from anywhere. This reduces the cost of hardware lease and maintenance agreements.
3. Linux-based IGEL OS is updated frequently, and with intermittent releases as necessary, ensuring support for the very latest software/firmware updates from Citrix, VMware, Microsoft Windows Virtual Desktop, AWS and others.
4. IGEL’s vast and growing technology partner ecosystem (100+) includes market leaders in unified communications such as Zoom and Microsoft Teams, single sign-on and digital signature, printer management, performance monitoring, optimization, and many more. The IGEL Ready technology partner program ensures IGEL OS stays current with the latest protocols, interfaces, and firmware versions to maintain streamlined interoperability for our customers.
5. IGEL exists to make the IT administrator’s life easier with a comprehensive selection of support, training, and service offerings. By empowering our customers and end-users to easily connect to and learn the full capabilities of their IGEL solution through the IGEL Academy, they reach their goals faster. The online IGEL Community is a vibrant hub to interact with peers, learn, and exchange all things about IGEL and the end-user computing space.

Lightweight and secure by design, IGEL OS offers a simple, smart, and secure solution that supports the mission-critical functionality and demands of evolving higher educational environments. Students, faculty, and administration can experience rich, productive digital experiences in the lecture hall, classroom, administration building, the dorm room, or at home. Previously complex operational functions are standardized and streamlined. IT managers can shift their focus from ad-hoc issues to strategic plans. By reducing operational and capital expenses, the financial manager can leverage the cost-savings and allocate budget and funding to further IT development projects.

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next-gen EDGE OS
for cloud workspaces