



## Droplet Computing Enables Secure Delivery of Oxford University Mission Critical Legacy Applications

### CUSTOMER:

University of Oxford,  
Social Sciences Division

### SECTOR:

Education

### REGION:

EMEA, United Kingdom

### USERS:

5,000

### WEBSITE:

<https://www.socsci.ox.ac.uk/>

### BACKGROUND:

Oxford University Social Sciences Division (OSSD) represents one of the largest groupings of social scientists in the world.

Their research combines rigorous and innovative quantitative methodologies and theoretical approaches using individual and collective experiences and actions.

The Times Higher Education University Rankings placed the University of Oxford as number one in the world for Social Sciences in 2018 and 2019. The OSSD IT team support the division and its 5,000 students.

### THE CHALLENGE:

The analytical and data processing applications that OSSD use are deemed legacy, in as much as they do not run on modern Windows operating systems and are not cross platform.

One of the key applications does have a Mac version, however, it only has 20% of the functionality that the Window version does. Given that many students attend university with a Mac, the OSSD IT team had the challenge to seek a solution whereby the applications could be delivered securely to any end point device, regardless of the operating system.

“Droplet Computing will enable Oxford University Social Sciences Division to simplify the delivery of our application estate. We are confident our applications will be delivered securely and maintain functionality across platforms and devices. Will save OSSD significant costs by reducing admin overheads, infrastructure costs and maintenance and support contracts for previous solutions.”

IT Manager, OSSD





Centralized cloud delivery,  
local execution



Application Portability



Run Non-native apps



Enhanced end user experience

## THE CHALLENGE:

During the past few years, OSSD has used various methods to deliver applications; including Citrix, VMware Fusion, VMware View, Parallels, Jukebox, and Software2.

These solutions brought different challenges into the equation, such as Windows on Windows devices only, poor performance on Mac, high costs and quantity of necessary infrastructure to run these solutions, along with time consuming and lengthy application packaging and delivery requirements.

Therefore, OSSD required a solution that could enable a more mobile, flexible working model that could embrace a student BYOD policy and that would decrease the admin overhead of supporting their legacy applications on multiple operating systems, which included individual scripting requirements to deliver the applications.

## THE SOLUTION:

The four main apps that need to be delivered are:

- Stata – Statistical software for data science
- ArcGIS – Desktop Geographic Information System
- NVivo – Qualitative data analysis
- IBM SPSS Statistics - Interactive statistical analysis

These applications are pivotal to the OSSD work and are not just in their faculties but also in universities across the world and the research, analysis and data garnered from them is shared globally.

Working with Droplet Computing channel partner MSS UK, who was instrumental in the introduction and deployment of Droplet Computing, OSSD embarked on a proof of concept and have determined that Droplet Computing containers are an ideal solution.

“Given that our students turn up to class with a variety of their own devices, we needed a solution that would enable us to deliver these critical applications regardless of the device or operating system students use”

IT Manager, OSSD





## THE SOLUTION:



"The fact that we no longer have to script each individual application for each single device our students may, or may not, bring to class is a huge benefit to us. Plus, I no longer need to know, or care, what those devices are!" OSSD IT team.

## THE BENEFITS:



Droplet Computing containers will enable OSSD to create one delivery mechanism to deliver every single app they have and deploy via MobileIron. Plus, allow them to provide consistency of full functionality of Windows applications across different devices.

This simplification has resulted in significant cost savings and frees up OSSD IT team to continue to innovate within their IT department.

Due to the isolation architecture of the Droplet Computing container means that OSSD are confident that their applications will be delivered securely.



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