



State University Enjoys Time Savings and Productivity through Collaboration between Sharp and Drive | Image

When the faculty at a state university needed an efficient and intuitive way to OCR files into Google Drive without sacrificing usability or compromising security, the university approached Sharp Business Systems of North Carolina to help identify solutions that would streamline these processes.

Business Environment Challenges

Educational institutions across the country rely on efficiency, security, and accuracy in their printing software solutions. This is especially true when it comes to higher education, where thousands of documents pass from multifunctional printers (MFPs) to document repositories every day.

The faculty at a state university in the southeastern U.S. needed an efficient and intuitive way to scan files to optical character recognition (OCR) so that they would go directly into Google Drive without sacrificing usability or compromising security. At the time, the university was operating a fleet of 20 Sharp MFPs on campus, predominantly for faculty use. A solution for secure authentication and scanning to home folders was already in place, but it lacked the ability to scan directly into Google Drive.

When the university implemented its campus-wide transition to Google Apps, the system's inability to scan directly to Google Drive became a critical issue.

Organization

A state university in the southeastern U.S.

Challenges

- Campus-wide migration to Google Apps, but no way of linking up with MFPs
- Could not scan files directly into faculty Google Drive accounts
- Needed to keep PDF documents secure, indexable and editable

Solutions

Implemented Drive | Image Google Apps Connector with single-sign-on Active Directory® service authentication throughout the campus MFPs

Results

- Faculty members can now scan files directly into Google Drive from all 20 Sharp MFPs on campus
- Automated processes create time savings and lower error rates
- Easy-to-use interface allows for faster training and smoother implementation

Technology Solutions

The university approached Sharp Business Systems of North Carolina to help identify solutions that would streamline these processes. After a review of available options, the university identified a Drive | Image Google Apps Connector as the best solution for bridging the gap. The Drive | Image Google Apps Connector provided the robust functionality and ease-of-use that the university was looking for. Faculty members were able to process and manage editable and indexable PDF files and take advantage of single-sign-on authentication without compromising security.

The Sharp OSA® development platform on the MFPs provided easy integration with Drive | Image to help the office become even more efficient. Drive | Image worked with the university to implement the solution across multiple MFPs located in high-traffic areas throughout the university. Faculty and staff were able to use keypads for Active Directory® service authentication and seamlessly access their individual Google Drive accounts.

Proven results

The university continues to enjoy the time savings and productivity advances introduced by the Drive | Image Google Apps Connector. In fact, according to management at the university, the Drive | Image Google Apps Connector has made staff members' day-to-day workflow a lot easier.

“They love it! We did a quick YouTube support video on how to do it and provided that to all the academic areas ... we really don't even have to go out and teach people how to use it!”

As a campus that prides itself on innovation, the university hopes that other schools will be inspired to update their MFP capabilities and get the most out of their Google Apps implementations with the Drive | Image Google Apps Connector.



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-- University Management

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