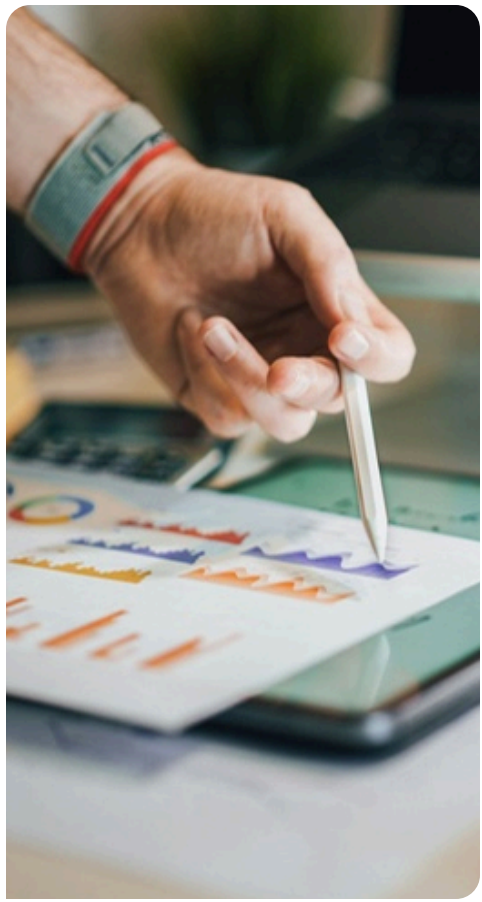
AppsAnywhere LABSTATS

IT Efficiency:

8 Ways to Cut Costs, Improve ROI and Unlock More Value

Doing more with less has become the operating reality for higher education IT. Budgets are under pressure, teams are stretched, and the demand for better digital access continues to grow.

The strongest savings come from removing waste, making better use of existing assets and reducing administrative burden and repetitive, time-consuming tasks. When executed as part of a holistic strategy and backed by evidence, this approach can unlock savings and release human and system capacity for innovation, cybersecurity or AI, while uplifting the student experience.



AppsAnywhere and LabStats work together as an end-to-end solution to solve these challenges.

AppsAnywhere simplifies how software is packaged, delivered, managed and accessed. **LabStats** provides evidence of how applications, devices and computer labs are being used.

Together, they help institutions move from "just in case" provisioning to decisions based on real demand.

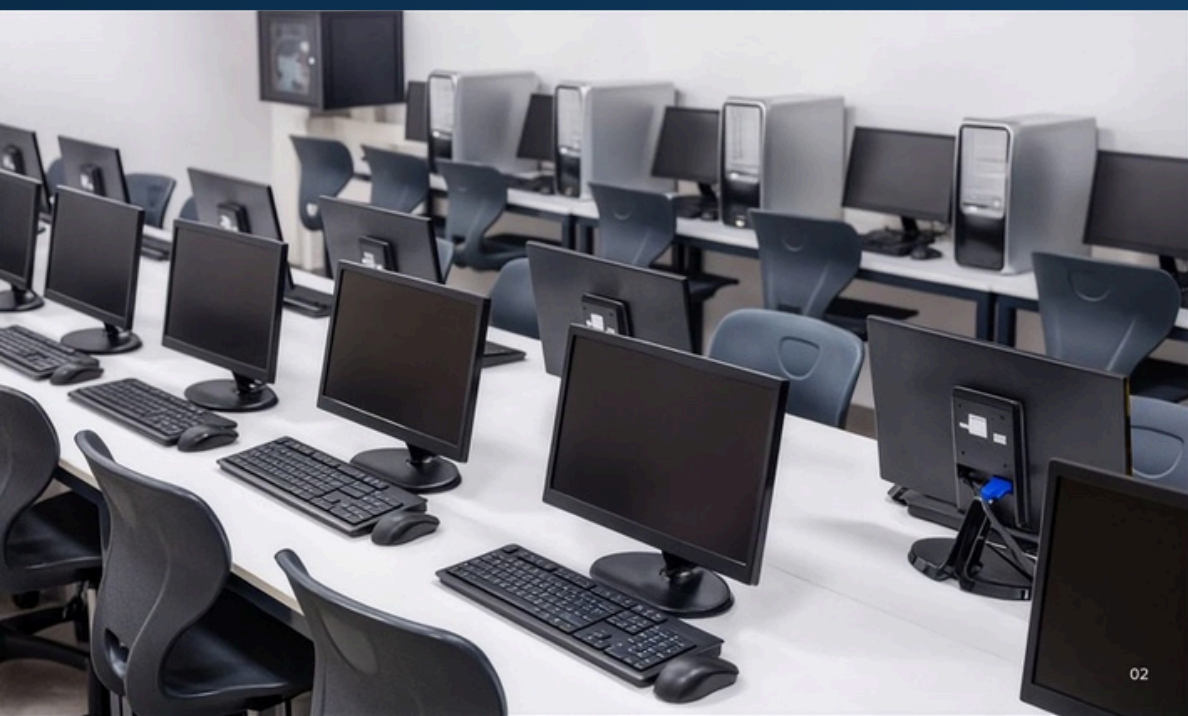
Here are **seven areas** where that shift can create direct savings, avoid future spend and add measurable institutional value.

1 Reduce hardware costs and maximize existing assets

Hardware is one of the largest and most visible areas of IT expenditure and waste.

When entire rows of computers sit idle while students disconnect them to plug in their own laptops, it begs the question “what for”? All the procurement, set-up, maintenance, just to be pushed aside? How can faculty and IT be on the same page when it comes to hardware needs, when there is no data to back opposing perspectives?

The combination of **LabStats and AppsAnywhere** provide the evidence to provision hardware where it’s needed, replace it only when required, expand peak performance lifespan, while allowing students to access the software they need on personal devices.



Extend lifecycles and reallocate before replacing

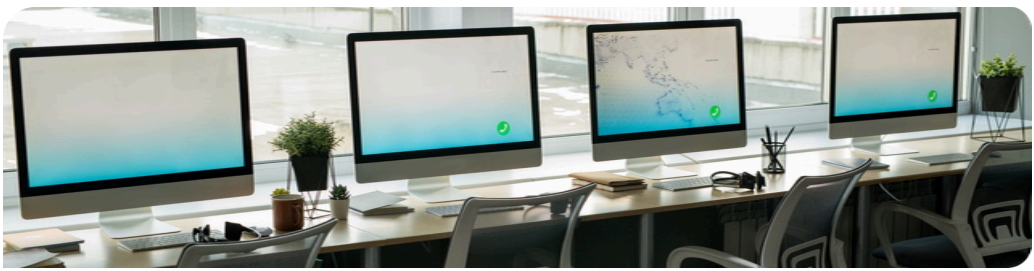
Fixed refresh cycles treat every computer as though it has experienced the same level of use, when IT knows that's not the case. LabStats data makes it possible to consider age alongside utilization, workload and device health.

AppsAnywhere extends device peak performance by moving applications away from heavy local images and delivering them through the most effective method. This is how Middlesex University added two years of peak performance to their computers.

Anglia Ruskin University reduced hardware complaints by 80% by using LabStats data to distribute available computing capacity more evenly across the campus, and signpost students to available devices with LabMaps.

-80% hardware complaints

via workstation availability optimization



Match compute power to workload requirements

AppsAnywhere and LabStats data showed that 70–80% of some of BCIT's most expensive computers were being passed over while students used personal laptops. BCIT's hybrid labs now include reduced specifications for general-purpose devices, while redirecting high-performance capacity to specialist Digital Arts and Engineering environments. This enabled the institution to absorb rising hardware prices within its existing budget.

Similarly, Coventry University identified areas where computers were mainly used for light tasks and began considering lower-cost platforms such as ChromeOS Flex.

St. Louis Community College moved away from replacing every computer automatically at five years and is now replacing devices mostly based on actual usage.

Make BYOD part of the hardware strategy

Students already use personal laptops on campus. At the University of Western Australia, only around a quarter of desktops were used at peak times, with library usage closer to 10%. UWA replaced underused computers with monitors and docking stations, supported BYOD and maintained loan and hardship-device programs. The foundational transformation cost approximately the same as maintaining the previous model, while also introducing AppsAnywhere, restructuring virtual delivery and modernizing more than 200 teaching rooms.

AppsAnywhere allows institutions to provide secure, authenticated access to course software while retaining central control over application entitlements, versions, licenses and delivery methods. The Smarter Prioritization engine decides the most effective delivery method, so applications can run locally, through cloud or remote access, depending on device OS, computer power or location (on or off campus).

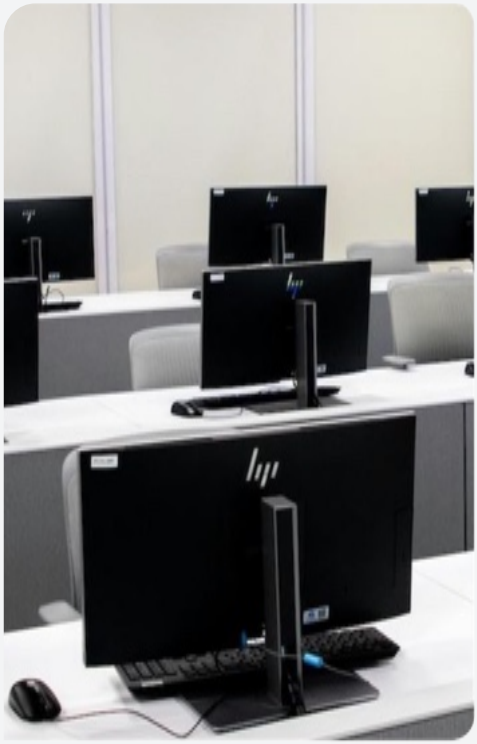
The return

Fewer managed devices, lower average specifications, longer lifecycles and investment directed where it delivers most value.

2 Right-size software licenses

Software licenses are often provided for “just in case” scenarios: site-wide licenses, estimations based on numbers of students rather than concurrent usage data.

Now there’s a better way of procuring software licenses, based on evidence on application launches, session duration, peak concurrency and longer-term usage patterns with AppsAnywhere and LabStats.



Remove unused applications and licenses

This data empowers IT to consolidate or renegotiate license agreements: UWA used AppsAnywhere Analytics to identify and remove 40–50 unused applications, reducing licensing, packaging and support costs.

Coventry University reduced its software catalogue from close to 1,000 packages to around 300 by assessing each application against actual usage.

In another LabStats customer example, a 300-computer lab was fully licensed for Adobe Creative Cloud, although fewer than ten machines regularly used the software, saving the institution hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Fewer applications means additional labor savings in packaging, patching and support. And with AppsAnywhere’s pre-packaged applications and automated licensing, IT teams get more time to work on strategic projects.

Consolidate procurement and measure concurrency

York University consolidated applications procurement across departments, removing duplication and moving towards shared or pooled licenses.

Peak concurrent use is one of the most important metrics in optimizing software licensing, not only from a license fee perspective, but also in reducing virtual desktop costs, by replacing it with a more sustainable app streaming (Cloud Delivery) model.

The return

Cancelled licenses or whole applications, smaller license pools, fewer duplicate contracts, stronger procurement negotiations and reduced support and packaging workload.

3 Lab management, reimaging and space savings

Traditional computer labs were built in the era when access to personal computers was a privilege, but today's students prefer to use their own devices.

While this is not a rule that applied to everyone, as not everyone can afford high powered machines, computer labs must provide the flexibility to accommodate each student's circumstances. One of the most powerful ways of modernizing lab management and unlocking savings, is by analyzing lab usage data, and by separating software delivery from individual machines through a centralized platform like AppsAnywhere.

Replace large annual rebuilds with continuous delivery

Before AppsAnywhere, Michigan Technological University installed more than 250 applications locally on each lab computer. Reimaging took more than 24 hours per machine and often required manual intervention. After moving its application estate to AppsAnywhere, average rebuild time fell to around 30 minutes. Packaging time also dropped from approximately 1.5 hours to 30 minutes, with many applications pre-packaged, and ready to be deployed.

Continuous delivery with in-place updates also removes the burden of late-night maintenance windows, reimaging with each application update, and cyber risk, by making updates available instantly for IT teams to schedule when suitable.

Hardware management at scale

With university real estate at a premium, providing access to the same software catalog on any device on and off campus frees up space and makes timetabling easy.

Coventry University used LabStats evidence to close 13 underused open-access rooms and concentrate investment in higher-demand spaces.

Pittsburg State University estimated savings of $700,000 to $900,000 over three years through lab consolidation and sharing. Mount Royal University removed four underused labs, saving a reported $25,000 in hardware and returning the rooms to teaching.

UWA released approximately 3,000sqm for flexible teaching, collaboration and student activity.

Use campus computers as remote capacity

BCIT uses LabStats-enabled remote access to connect students to physical computers already configured for AppsAnywhere. Students can access specialist Windows applications and campus compute power from their own Macs, Chromebooks and lower-spec devices.

This approach increases utilization of existing hardware and is expected to reduce BCIT's reliance on general-purpose VDI by approximately 60%.

The return

Faster reimaging, lower facilities costs, higher utilization of existing assets and easier scheduling.

4 Release IT productivity and reduce administration

Centralized delivery, automated reporting and simpler infrastructure release skilled staff from repetitive work and create capacity for higher-value priorities.

Centralize recurring software and lab management

AppsAnywhere allows software to be packaged, updated and managed centrally across labs, departments and delivery methods.

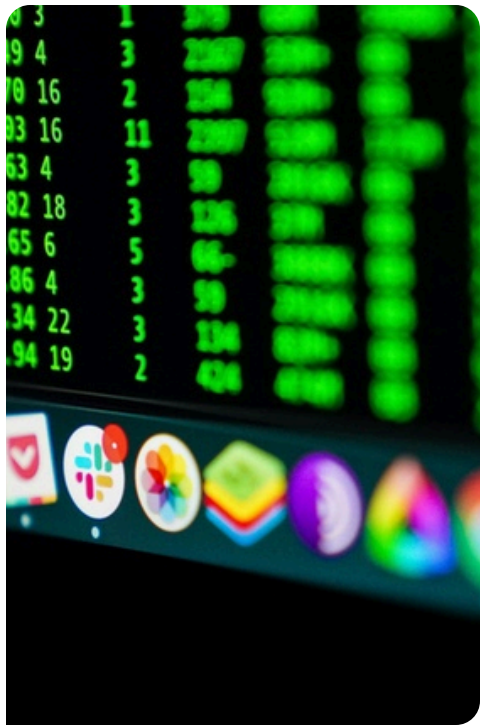
At BCIT, work previously distributed across around 20 people is now managed centrally by four or five, with most of the support being done remotely through the admin dashboard. The wider team can focus on infrastructure, service improvement and strategic projects.

Automate IT asset management

Before LabStats, Mount Royal University paid lab monitors to count usage manually for eight hours a day. Producing reports could then require one to two weeks of staff time.

St. Louis Community College also moved from manual reconciliation to live reporting, reducing a process that took weeks to minutes.

Continuous data gives IT, finance and estates teams timely evidence for purchasing, space planning and resource allocation.



Reduce duplicated delivery environments

BCIT's previous cloud VDI required separate images, policies and administration, duplicating work already completed for physical labs.

Coventry experienced a similar burden with Citrix, including multiple access routes, weekend maintenance windows and additional service-desk training. While its Citrix implementation took more than 12 months, Coventry's return to cloud-hosted AppsAnywhere took less than 24 hours using retained infrastructure, pre-packaged applications and automated licensing.

The return

Less manual administration, fewer parallel environments and more skilled capacity for innovation, cybersecurity and AI.

05 Reduce support and troubleshooting costs

In IT no news is good news.

When The University of Manchester implemented AppsAnywhere across the campus, all complaints from academics and students virtually disappeared.

Support costs and complaints fall when software delivery is consistent, device health is visible and teams can diagnose issues centrally.

Improve reliability at source

AppsAnywhere supports thinner base images with fewer applications installed locally. This reduces application conflicts, improves device performance and allows IT to repair or update a central package rather than individual endpoints.

Middlesex University reported fewer hardware-related complaints after moving away from images containing approximately 200 locally installed applications.

Anglia Ruskin University had a hardware availability issue, with support complaints affecting their NSS score. Using LabMaps from LabStats, complaints dropped by 80% without purchasing any additional devices, as students could easily find available computers across campus.

Prevent problems before they become disruptions

LabStats Insights sends regular reports to your inbox, with actionable recommendations to improve computer availability, connectivity, storage, inactivity and device health. You will know exactly which devices have been inactive for a long time and missed critical security updates, reducing the risk of security vulnerabilities.

BCIT uses this information to identify offline or unplugged computers before classes begin. St. Louis Community College uses automated alerts to locate disconnected or unused machines without conducting room-by-room audits.

Combined application and hardware data also helps support teams easily identify whether an issue relates to the application, device, license, network or user entitlement.

The return

Fewer support tickets, faster diagnosis, less teaching disruption and more capacity for complex and proactive support.

06 VDI as the last resort, not the default

VDI delivers value for applications and workflows that require a persistent virtual environment. Using it as the default delivery method, leads to high infrastructure, consumption and specialist staffing costs.

AppsAnywhere selects the most efficient delivery method for each application and user context, prioritizing local execution, application virtualization or Cloud Delivery before routing sessions through VDI. LabStats-enabled remote access also allows students to connect to existing campus computers, extending the value of hardware already owned.

BCIT replaced its general-purpose cloud VDI that took about 20 minutes to load, with remote access to physical lab machines configured for AppsAnywhere. This reduced its VDI reliance by around 60%, while consolidating software delivery through a single application catalogue and removing duplicated images, policies and administration.

York University, Purdue and Coventry University have all switched from Citrix to AppsAnywhere for a better digital experience, reduced complexity and loading time, and more effective infrastructure management and cost savings.

-60% Cloud VDI usage

through single-catalogue app delivery

The return

Lower infrastructure and consumption costs, fewer parallel environments, reduced administration and more predictable software delivery costs.

07 Lower cybersecurity costs and risk

Cybersecurity expenditure includes endpoint licenses, monitoring, patching, compliance, incident response and recovery. A leaner, more consistent estate reduces both recurring costs and financial exposure.

Reduce per-device security spend

Every managed computer requires security, management and monitoring.

Coventry found that reducing the number of devices also reduced demand for per-endpoint security products such as CrowdStrike. Similar savings can apply across backup, device-management and monitoring tools.

Simplify patching and reduce the attack surface

Through AppsAnywhere centralized application management and isolated application delivery, IT can patch the central catalogue and make the updated version available to relevant users, rather than updating multiple local installations.

It can identify and flag any potential vulnerabilities, allowing IT admin to immediately isolate and remedy vulnerabilities without impacting access to other applications or users.

UWA delivers software using a containerized virtual environment via AppsAnywhere, streaming applications on demand. This model enhances cybersecurity by design by reducing the footprint on user devices, isolating software vulnerabilities at the source, since applications are not delivered in a persistent environment.

This model also supports secure BYOD by controlling identity, entitlement and delivery at the institutional level, while students retain ownership of their personal devices.

Reduce recovery time and cost

Cyberattack costs extend well beyond ransom, across specialist support, internal staff time, teaching disruption, lost productivity and reputational impact.

Following York University's 2020 cyberattack, AppsAnywhere was among the first services restored. A centralized delivery environment gives institutions a clearer route to isolation and recovery than a fragmented estate of locally installed applications.

The return

Fewer security licenses, more efficient patching, lower exposure and faster recovery.

08 Improve student access, retention and institutional income

Digital access has direct impact on participation, engagement and attainment. Reliable access to course software removes a preventable barrier for students balancing study with employment, caring responsibilities, commuting, disability or financial pressure.

Provide equitable access across devices and locations

UWA gives students consistent access to course software across its Perth and Albany campuses, internationally and from home. Students can use personal devices, borrow laptops or access additional support through a hardship device program.

BCIT enables students on Macs, Chromebooks and lower-spec computers to use specialist Windows applications on campus machines through LabStats' remote access.

At Purdue University, students whose personal devices cannot support GPU-intensive engineering applications are redirected to suitable server resources through AppsAnywhere.

The return

Greater flexibility, fewer barriers to participation, and income protected through stronger student continuation.

Keen to find out how much you could save with AppsAnywhere and LabStats?

Book a free consultation to find out