

Blue Valley Schools

Case Study

TUNGSTEN
AUTOMATION



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Blue Valley Schools Enhances Student and Staff Experiences with Seamless, Secure Print Services

To offer outstanding learning experiences to more than 22,000 students in Johnson County, Kansas, Blue Valley Schools relies on printing and scanning capabilities. To boost security, cut costs and save resources, the organization engaged imageQUEST to deploy Tungsten Equitrac® Print-to-Me and Tungsten ControlSuite™, enabling intelligent capture, mobile support and workflow automation. By adopting Tungsten solutions and consolidating 1,600 printers and scanners to 400 smart devices, Blue Valley Schools can queue documents until students and staff arrive at the printer—avoiding over 83,000 pages of waste a month.



>292k

Pages of Print Waste
Saved in 3.5 Months

75%

Reduction in Number
of Print Devices

Cuts

Costs and Boosts
Information Security

“By far, the best thing about our Tungsten solutions is how robust they are. We’ve yet to run into a use case we can’t support with the Tungsten platform.”

Jason Gillam,
Director of Business Operations, Blue Valley Schools

ABOUT BLUE VALLEY SCHOOLS

Blue Valley Schools is a public unified school district headquartered in Overland Park, Kansas, with more than 22,000 students and 3,300 staff.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Enable staff to print securely using any printer in the district network
- Empower students to print from provided wireless devices
- Consolidate number of printers and scanners to optimize costs
- Gain greater visibility of printing costs and unlock new efficiencies

PRODUCTS IN USE

- Tungsten AutoStore
- Tungsten Business Connect™
- Tungsten ControlSuite™
- Tungsten Equitrac®
- Tungsten Equitrac Print-to-Me
- Tungsten Output Manager™

Challenge

Headquartered in Overland Park, Kansas, Blue Valley Schools is a group of 21 elementary schools, 9 middle schools, and 5 high schools. With a K-12 and EC-12 enrollment of more than 22,000 students, the organization employs approximately 3,300 faculty and administrative staff.

“In just three and a half months, we’ve avoided printing over 292,400 pages, saving costs and shrinking waste.”

Jason Gillam,
Director of Business Operations,
Blue Valley Schools

To help deliver high-quality learning experiences, Blue Valley Schools depends on high-quality printing, fax and scanning capabilities. With printers deployed at 40 buildings over an area of 91 square miles, plus a dedicated printshop for high-volume jobs, the organization strives to offer students, faculty and administrators secure, convenient services.

Jason Gillam, Director of Business Operations at Blue Valley Schools, comments: “As a public school district, it’s important for us to manage information in a structured way. At the same time, it’s vital to ensure that all stakeholders can access the information services they need while keeping costs under tight control.”

In the past, Blue Valley Schools managed an estate of around 1,600 print and multi-function devices (MFDs), with Xerox® DocuShare® for content management within the Business Office and Biscom fax solutions. Many of the printers and scanners were shared by only one or two staff, reducing operational cost-efficiency. Others were deployed in common areas, creating potential information security challenges.

“Our previous print management tool would send faxes for printing as soon as they were received,” explains Gillam. “The risk was that sensitive information could be sitting out in the open for some time before a member of our team collected it. We also faced security challenges for scanning. Our previous solution was unable to support the latest OAuth 2.0 security standard—so to stay in compliance with internal policies, we had to limit scanning capabilities for our users significantly.”

The former approach presented difficulties for students and faculty, too. Gillam continues: “Students often bring Windows, macOS, iOS and Android devices into school, but it was complex and time-consuming to connect them to our print network. As a result, many students relied on their teachers to print for them. We were keen to remove this administrative burden on staff by empowering students to print for themselves—especially as we were preparing to roll out district-owned Chromebook, iPad and MacBook devices to students.”

To solve these challenges, Blue Valley Schools targeted a new approach to print management. “The goal was to enable everyone—staff, students, contractors and volunteers—to print and scan on our network securely, independently and cost-effectively,” Gillam confirms.

Solution

After reviewing several market-leading solutions, Blue Valley Schools engaged Xerox business partner imageQUEST to deploy ControlSuite™ with Equitrac® Print-to-Me, and to rationalize its print and capture landscape by replacing 1,600 printers and scanners with 400 Xerox MFDs and Smart Laser Printers. Blue Valley Schools hosts its Tungsten solutions in an on-premises virtual server environment, and the Tungsten solutions and Xerox devices are managed by imageQUEST.

“We had already been using Equitrac for a number of years, and we were very pleased with how easy it was to create custom cost reports and drill down to see fine-grained usage data,” recalls Gillam. “We saw ControlSuite as a game-changer. We knew from our experience with Equitrac that the

print engine was robust and could support high volumes of jobs. Equally importantly, the combination of ControlSuite with Equitrac Print-to-Me allows us to shape secure end-to-end printing workflows for all users.”

By integrating the Tungsten solutions with Microsoft Active Directory, Blue Valley Schools enables users to send jobs to new MFDs located in easily accessible common areas. Staff can scan their RF-enabled badges at the MFD to release their jobs, while students enter a PIN linked to their Microsoft Active Directory user account.

Gillam comments: “By leveraging Output Manager™ process orchestration capabilities from ControlSuite, we’ve successfully configured our Biscom Fax Server to add incoming faxes

“By extending ControlSuite with Business Connect™, we make it easy for people who bring their own devices to connect to and print on our network—from laptops to Chromebooks to tablets.”

Jason Gillam,
Director of Business Operations, Blue Valley Schools

BENEFITS

- Shrinks printer and scanner estate by 75%, reducing costs
- Eliminates direct printing, reducing information security risks
- Avoids over 292,400 pages of print waste in 3.5 months
- Provides insight into print costs, helping to optimize budgets

to the appropriate user's Print-to-Me queue, allowing staff to print faxes securely to the device of their choosing."

By partnering with imageQUEST, Blue Valley Schools has enhanced printing and scanning capabilities for all users—including those on mobile devices.

"By extending ControlSuite with Business Connect, we make it easy for people who bring provided wireless devices to connect to and print on our network—from laptops to Chromebooks to tablets," says Gillam.

"We've also augmented our Tungsten solutions with document capture workflow capabilities from AutoStore, a component product of ControlSuite, which has greatly improved and enriched the intelligent capture experience. Today, staff and students can scan to Microsoft OneDrive and Google Docs, and convert those scans into formats such as Microsoft Word, Microsoft PowerPoint and Adobe PDF. Crucially, AutoStore supports our rigorous information security requirements, including OAuth 2.0."

Results

Today, Blue Valley Schools uses its Tungsten solutions to process two million black-and-white and 175,000 color print jobs each month—

supporting thousands of students and staff with timely and secure access to information.

"By redesigning our print workflow so that users must release jobs at the MFD, we're both improving security and reducing waste caused by people sending jobs to print and then forgetting to collect them," explains Gillam. "If a print job has not been collected after a set period, we automatically remove it from the queue—a function users can also perform themselves. In just three and a half months, we've avoided printing over 292,400 pages, saving costs and shrinking waste."

In the past, budget administrators at Blue Valley Schools could only access data about printing expenditure at a high level—tracking the costs of break-fix maintenance and consumables such as toner, for example. The new solution offers richer and more granular data, allowing administrators to drill down to see print spend for each type of user, and helping them to ensure that resources are being used effectively.

"Deploying Tungsten solutions and engaging maintenance services from imageQUEST has greatly reduced the pressure on our IT team," comments Gillam. "Our staff no longer have to manually push out driver updates to physical printers or perform time-consuming maintenance tasks."

Gillam adds: “Teachers’ time is precious too, and we want to ensure they can spend as much of it on our students as possible. To achieve that goal, we’ve assigned one ‘superuser’ for printing in each building, so teachers can report problems quickly without writing emails or raising tickets. Every two weeks, a dedicated imageQUEST customer experience manager meets with our superusers on site and helps to resolve any issues quickly.”

Looking ahead, Blue Valley Schools plans to build on the Tungsten solutions, enabling capture to cloud instead of storing digital documents on local machines. The organization also aims to enhance its document conversion workflow, making it easier for teachers to make changes to existing documents—for example, converting test papers saved as PDFs into editable Word documents and vice versa.

“By far, the best thing about our Tungsten solutions is how robust they are,” concludes Gillam. “We’ve yet to run into a use case we can’t support with the Tungsten platform, and we look forward to finding innovative ways to offer even better experiences to our students and staff.”

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[Learn more about Tungsten ControlSuite](#)

About Tungsten Automation

Tungsten Automation, formerly Kofax, is the global leader in intelligent automation solutions with a trusted legacy of nearly 40 years, with a team of 2,000+ employees in 40 countries, serving 25,000+ global customers. Our dedication to innovation and customer success has earned us industry recognition, including being named a leader in Intelligent Automation (IA), Intelligent Document Processing (IDP) and Process Orchestration by top analysts. We are trusted to help businesses gain unprecedented efficiencies and reduce costs through AI-powered workflow automations that propel their businesses into the future.

To learn more, visit www.TungstenAutomation.com

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