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Hutto Independent School District



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Hutto ISD turns to Tools4ever to help automate user accounts with connections to Skyward and Active Directory

Executive Summary

Problem

Prior the new school year beginning Hutto ISD was faced with having to manually create, update and delete over 6,300 user accounts. And with a polluted AD system they were in need of an automated, cost efficient solution.

Solution

Tools4ever's UMRA was implemented to automate the account management process with connections to Skyward SIS.

Products

UMRA
Web Portal

Connectors

Active Directory
Skyward
Google Apps

Results

Savings of 1 FTE, 35% reduction in mundane tasks

Hutto Independent School District (ISD) serves 5,411 children in the greater Hutto area of Texas which is located 25 miles northeast of Austin in east Williamson County. Hutto ISD, a Texas Education Agency Recognized district, is one of the fastest growing in the state and serves 75 square miles throughout the east Williamson County area. Hutto ISD values the importance of education and offers students more than just a high school diploma. The district offers a wide-range of advanced and college-level courses, dual-credit coursework and a first-of-its kind early college program, Legacy Early College. Seven of the district's eight campuses and the district overall has been honored with one or more Gold Performance Acknowledgments for improved performances in math, science, social studies, reading, and/or writing.

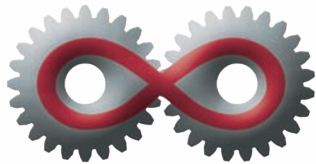
Hutto ISD came to Tools4ever to secure a solution that would allow the IT staff to proactively manage their users rather than work in a reactive cycle. Prior to partnering with Tools4ever the Hutto staff would manually provision users to systems and applications; data was often out of sync, insecure, and master clean-ups were disorganized and inconsistent. Managing over 6,300 users (students, faculty and staff) became very time consuming and forced the district to consider adding a software solution that would provide automated support and could connect with Skyward Student Information System.

Travis Brown, Network Administrator for Hutto ISD in Texas had this to say about Tools4ever's connection to Skyward; "Tools4ever's UMRA software has saved our district considerable man hours and resources by connecting to the Skyward Student Information System to automatically manage our user accounts in Active Directory. The Tools4ever consultants did an outstanding job implementing the UMRA and we began saving immediately."

ROI within weeks

Faced with increasing budget constraints it was important that Hutto choose a solution like Tools4ever that was cost efficient and could show ROI within weeks, not months or years. They also needed to implement a solution that was scalable as they increase in size and bring on new technologies for their users. Hutto also decided that they needed a solution that could have a user managed Web portal that would take some tasks off the IT plate

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Travis Brown, systems administrator, Hutto Independent School District

and put it in the hands of the faculty and staff. Brown adds, “Other products could not meet our needs. They were costly, bulky, required more resources, a dedicated expert and could not be implemented as fast as Tools4ever.”

Manage bulk user accounts

Hutto ISD implemented Tools4ever’s User Management Resource Administrator (UMRA) to manage bulk user creation, modifications and deletions. What was once a manual process has now become an automated project that runs daily for the school district. Data is pulled from Skyward SIS and is synced with Active Directory at each project run. This has ensured user accounts are up to date and that Active Directory is clean, organized and has a consistent folder structure.

UMRA has also allowed the IT staff to push password reset questions and user modifications to the staff via web portal. The web portal lets faculty and staff reset student passwords without having to wait for an IT staff member to fulfill the request. This on average is saving 2-3 hours per request. And because passwords can be reset by the faculty and staff there is little to no down time for students.

“UMRA saves us from having to do manual scripting, buying reactive utilities, and spending resources on tasks that can be automated. Our team can now focus on high impact projects that benefit the entire Hutto district,” said Brown.

Additional technologies to be implemented

Hutto ISD will also added the provisioning of user accounts to Google Apps. By implementing a provisioning project to connect AD and Google Apps they will continue to advance technology to the school district in a smart, proactive way without exhausting man hours or additional resources. The connection to Google Apps projects will run daily with the previous synchronization projects.

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