



UMRA improves student and employee efficiency at South Kitsap School District.



South Kitsap School District is K-12 district located in Port Orchard, Washington. It currently encompasses a comprehensive grade 10-12 high school, 10 elementary schools, 3 junior highs, and 2 alternative schools which have over 9,500 students and 1,200 employees.

As with many school districts, South Kitsap has to do more with less, and needs to find ways to be more efficient. The district's IT department had developed their own in-house solution for user account management but after several years, realized that they had outgrown it because it could not complete complex tasks and often took too long to create accounts. "Nowadays, teachers use online grading, email, and voicemail, and need to have their accounts created quickly, and students are using assessment tools from the day they enroll," said Derry Lyons, Director of IT Services, at South Kitsap School District.

As they talked to other school districts about solutions, they learned about Tools4ever's User Management Resource Administrator (UMRA). "In talking to counterparts, it was clear that UMRA was a robust and scalable solution, but also customizable to fit our environment. It had scalability to get us over the hurdles we were facing with our in house solution," said Lyons.

Client

South Kitsap School District

Challenge

South Kitsap's in house solution was no longer able to handle the account management tasks that they needed it to.

Solution

UMRA was implemented to automate the account management process and to also work with Dropbox folders.

Products and connectors

User Management Resource Administrator (UMRA); Exchange and SQL Server in conjunction with Skyward

Result

Accounts are now created error free within 24 hours for students and staff, and the IT department no longer has to deal with account creation requests.

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Derry Lyons

Director of IT Services at South Kitsap School District

South Kitsap decided to implement UMRA and began to work closely with Tools4ever to map out exactly what needed to be done. “We told the technical team exactly what we wanted to do and they were able to build the scripts and test it,” said Lyons.

Accuracy of account information

In South Kitsap, student and employee information flows from their Skyward system into SQL Server and then UMRA takes over. “UMRA makes our accounts much more accurate. If a human is intervening, things can get missed and are not quite right. UMRA knows exactly what permissions each user should get,” said Lyons.

For employees, UMRA creates an exchange email account, home directory, and adds them to the appropriate security groups within a day. UMRA allows IT staff at South Kitsap to concentrate on other projects rather than work on user accounts. “We’re not dealing with people calling us with account issues anymore; they just know it’s going to happen.”

Customizable

Tools4ever was also able to customize UMRA to the needs of South Kitsap. Teachers at the district wanted to use drop box folders, so students could safely submit assignments, or share files. By feeding UMRA student schedules and account information, it now manages the security of these folders.

Due to the student success with UMRA thus far, South Kitsap then decided to connect UMRA

to their new human resource system, Skyward, for staff accounts, and have the entire process automated from start to finish. This allows them to provide a less than 24 hour turnaround from hiring to account provisioning. South Kitsap now plans on working with Tools4ever to continue using UMRA as a development platform to solve other issues that they are having such as password management. “It has very much been a partnership of success,” said Lyons. “Through UMRA’s scripting interface, we are able to securely drive password management down to the school level, giving our teachers the tools they need to get students back online.”

Further Improvements

Recently, the district has taken steps to further automate their process and make it even more efficient. Tools4ever worked with South Kitsap to connect their Cisco Unity and Call Manager with UMRA. Managing the district’s Cisco Communications system of 1,100 handsets and voicemail accounts was a manual task, involving a separate alert/request process and manual intervention by a network technician. “With several elements in the provisioning process, it was easy to miss a step,” commented Lyons.

Now, with the connection between UMRA and Cisco, UMRA performs imports at scheduled intervals or on demand. These tasks include assigning users to phones, updating caller ID names, creating new user voicemail boxes, resetting voicemail PIN numbers and deactivating accounts when staff leave the district.



New York

Washington