

## CASE STUDY: AMERICAN PUBLIC EDUCATION, INC.

### American Public Education, INC. works towards cloud-first goal with email migration from Exchange On-Premise to Office 365 with Forsyte I.T. Solutions



American Public  
University System



## OVERVIEW

Information technology systems are an integral part of the student experience and business operations at American Public Education, Inc. (APEI), which supports American Public University System (APUS), American Military University (AMU), and Hondros College of Nursing (HCN). As the number one provider of education to U.S. military and veterans, APUS prides itself on its ability to deliver a robust online learning experience.

APEI recently embarked on a multi-year technology transformation, in which applications, systems, and data are being migrated to the cloud rather than in the university's data centers. The migration from Exchange On-Premise to Office 365 offers a modern user experience to staff and students by standardizing core technology on Office 365.

Working with expert security and innovation partner, Forsyte I.T. Solutions, APEI continues to move towards the strategy goal of being cloud first.

## PROJECT GOALS

- 1 Take advantage of the enhanced collaboration and security capabilities provided by Office 365.
- 2 Modernize user experience for staff and students by standardizing core technology on Microsoft 365.
- 3 Deprecate the reliance and support for APEI on-premise environment to rely less on on-prem hardware and scale email in the cloud.

## ORGANIZATION

### American Public Education System

**Website:**  
[www.apei.edu](http://www.apei.edu)

**Location:**  
Charles Town, WV

**Industry:**  
Education

**Implementation:**  
Exchange On-Premise  
to Office 365 Migration

**Size:**

- 3,000 employees
- 90,000+ students
- 113,000+ graduates

**"We can do that" was  
Forsyte's response to  
every challenge.**

- Mike Flowers  
APEI Manager,  
System Engineering

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Founded in 1991, American Public University System has helped over 113,000+ graduates continue their education and advance their careers. Today, APUS is one of the largest providers of online higher education offering more than 200 degree and certificate programs to students enrolled worldwide. As an innovator and leader in providing quality online education, APEI is focused on enhancing the student learning experience and faculty engagement.

## CHALLENGE

APEI had a need to migrate off of their on-premise 2010 Exchange solution. The university system was using on-premise Exchange 2010, which reached end of support in 2020, meaning that Microsoft would no longer provide technical support, bug, or security fixes for the product. The migration to Office 365 was part of a larger digitalization process and included approximately 2,200 on-prem mailboxes, consisting of shared mailboxes, delegated access to mailboxes, and public folders. Additionally, this process included the migration of mail archives from Enterprise Vault to Exchange Online Archiving as part of the Office 365 solution.

APEI foresaw numerous challenges with the migration and recognized the need for technical resources with Office 365 and cloud migration expertise. When recommended by a colleague, APEI reached out to Forsyte I.T. Solutions (Forsyte) to drive the migration process.

## SOLUTION

Forsyte's security experts modernized APEI technology and utilized the enhanced collaboration and security capabilities provided by Office 365. A cloud-based learning system has improved the reliability, scalability, agility, and security of APEI infrastructure and applications, translating to an enhanced student learning experience and faculty engagement. This migration has allowed APEI to transition to newer technology and bypass the challenges associated with on-premise services.

Forsyte provided knowledge and troubleshooting expertise, helping APEI implement solutions and strategies for future use. While a migration to Microsoft Office 365 can be challenging, it is the most viable option to avoid escalation of compatibility issues in the future.



**Built-in spam  
and malware  
filtering  
capabilities.**



**Reduced risk  
of losing  
email data.**



**Easily access  
and securely  
share files and  
documents.**

## BENEFITS

In an effort to better accommodate flexible learning modalities, improve operational effectiveness, and enhance the learning experience for students and faculty, APEI entrusted Microsoft Gold Partner, Forsyte to aid in their email migration from Exchange on-premise to Office 365. With Forsyte's guidance and support, APEI received the assistance needed to make this transition and streamline success in the cloud going forward. More cloud-related projects are on the horizon for APEI.