MyComputerCareer enhances education with AMD Ryzen™ Mobile CPUs

Faster performance and dependable delivery of IT training coursework with AMD Ryzen™ Mobile Processors

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MyComputerCareer has a vision about how to improve education in information technology skills. Seeing that traditional teaching methods weren't providing an adequate outcome, founder and CEO Tony Galati set up MyComputerCareer's first campus in Raleigh, NC, in 2008 with the aim of changing people's lives. The organization now has eight campuses across the U.S., an online program, and 5,000 enrolled students per year.

A key factor in delivering on MyComputerCareer's goals is providing a laptop for every student. "Tony wanted every student to have a computer so that they could study without interruption, without having to share that with somebody else," explains Bruce Ackerman, Chief Marketing Officer at MyComputerCareer. "This helps them to be pre successful in their education and on into their careers."

To achieve this, MyComputerCareer bundles a laptop with its tuition fees, which must provide the best performance for the money possible, in a rugged form. Through laptop provider Lenovo and service company vision21 solutions, MyComputerCareer found that AMD Ryzen™ Mobile Processors delivered exactly what was needed to give students the best possible opportunity to complete their studies successfully.

Meeting student demands

"MyComputerCareer needs about 1200 machines per quarter and in a very short time span," says Daniel Willis, MyComputerCareer's account manager at vision21 solutions. This means that

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Greg Galati, CIO of MyComputerCareer

It requires a stable specification from a reliable brand that will continue to deliver over a year's coursework and remain a useful tool for students even after they have graduated. To fulfill this need, vision21 suggested looking at Lenovo laptops based on the AMD Ryzen processor. "We knew that it was up-and-coming technology and very affordable and could perform the functions for the students," explains Willis. "I thought it would be a good fit for MyComputerCareer."

Providing the best possible laptop for students is central to MyComputerCareer's core strategy. "The idea of changing lives is the number one factor in everything that we do at MyComputerCareer," explains Greg Galati, CIO of MyComputerCareer. "We think about the students and how we can help them change their lives from where they are today. We do everything in our ability to further that. That's included in the equipment that we give to them.If we felt that we weren't helping them to change their lives and that a better technology could do that, we would certainly go there."

This made the Ryzen Mobile CPUs a particularly attractive proposition. When MyComputerCareer supplies computers to its students, the students must feel that they are getting good value and not being supplied with an underpowered system based on yesterday's technology. "We need them to feel secure in that this purchase for their benefit will get them through our program," adds Greg Galati. As a result, MyComputerCareer regularly evaluates its laptop offering to ensure it delivers what the company and its students demand.

Great performance for every educational task

MyComputerCareer puts any new technology through a rigorous testing program before deploying it to students. This starts with application benchmarks such as PCmark 10, which evaluates basic system performance with a variety of everyday tasks. A range of Lenovo systems were tested to see which one would suit students best. "We ran a couple of different benchmark programs so that we weren't just using one source," explains Greg Galati. "In all the ones that we used, the Lenovo model with the Ryzen processor in it outperformed the Intel-based products."

But the testing process doesn't just stop at synthetic benchmarking. MyComputerCareer also needs to make sure the laptop it has chosen meets the real-world usability needs of staff and students. "We then took each one of those same models, and we passed it along to our education department to have them assess the look and feel of the unit compared to each other," explains Greg Galati. "At the same time, we ran labs on it to make sure that those labs will perform the way we expect them to for our students." The labs involve Oracle VM VirtualBox hypervisor software containing the assignments the students need to complete.

The result of these tests was that MyComputerCareer chose a Lenovo ThinkPad E585 based around the AMD Ryzen 3 2200U Mobile Processor. This is a mid-range laptop with a 15.6 in screen driven by integrated AMD Radeon™ Vega graphics and a rugged design. MyComputerCareer standardizes on one model for an extended period, rather than offering a range of specifications. The testing proved that the specification selected would deliver what the students needed. "A benchmark can only tell me so much," adds Greg Gelati.

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>
> *Daniel Willis, Account Manager*

"But when we put the laptop in their hands and they start to use it, we may find we have some sort of other issue. And we didn't, so we were happy about that."

Technology to deliver on core values

The students get to keep the laptop provided by MyComputerCareer, setting them up for work after their studies as well as for completing their courses effectively. "Not only do they get a good education at MyComputerCareer," says Greg Galati, "but they also get a good mobile device. It gives them a lot of flexibility with where they go next for employment. They can walk in with a business-ready device on day one."

MyComputerCareer has been very happy with what the AMD Ryzen 3 2200U Mobile Processor-based Lenovo ThinkPad E585 has delivered for its students. "The fact that we're using AMD is an indication of our confidence in the brand and that it's going to reflect positively on our brand as well to our students, prospective students, and the rest of the world," explains Ackerman. "We want to be seen as an industry leader in technology education and in the cybersecurity space in particular. So as we're making these kinds of choices we're going to be very cognizant of how the technology we use is perceived in the greater marketplace so that it enhances our brand. We certainly feel that the technology that we're using is supporting that goal and that mission.

"Our company operates around four core values," continues Ackerman. "The first is integrity ; the second is customer first ; the third is love ; the fourth is excellence. The technology we use, the instructors that we have, the certifications that we offer, and the classroom experience that we give—all of those things have to conform to those four core values. We would not be using this technology if there was any question in our mind that it didn't meet that standard."

About MyComputerCareer

MyComputerCareer is an accredited career college dedicated to serving and helping those looking for professional fulfillment in Information Technology. The school was founded in 2007 by Tony Galati and opened its first campus in Raleigh, NC, in 2008. It now has eight campuses across North Carolina, Texas, Indiana, and Ohio as well as online programs, with over 5,000 students enrolled every year. MyComputerCareer is nationally accredited by the Accrediting Council for Continuing Education & Training (ACCET) and was designated among the "Fast-Fifty" fastest growing companies in the Raleigh Triangle area in 2017 and 2018. Also in 2018, the company was named one of the Inc. 5000 fastest growing businesses in the U.S. To learn more about MyComputerCareer visit mycomputercareer.edu.

About AMD

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