

## CASE STUDY

# University of Florida Simplifies and Standardizes Network Management with Infoblox



## The Customer

The [University of Florida](#) (UF) is a world famous, American public research university with a long history of excellence. Founded in 1853 in Gainesville, Florida, UF is known for its top-ranked research, academic and athletic programs and its historical contributions to society for the “Gator Good”. UF invented Gatorade in 1965, opened the world’s most comprehensive Health Science Center in 1998 and earned 9 NCAA conference titles in 2012-2013. UF has hundreds of notable alumni, including Amazon.com CEO Jeff Bezos, bestselling author Michael Connley, sportscaster and TV personality Erin Andrews, retired Olympic gold medalist and FIFA Women’s World Cup champion Abby Wambach, Academy Award-winning actress Faye Dunaway and many more. It’s no wonder that the University of Florida is consistently ranked among the top universities in the United States.

UF’s network infrastructure hosts over 56,000 students, over 14,000 faculty and staff, 14 academic departments, over a dozen research and education centers and Gainesville’s largest hospital across the state of Florida.

Justin Taylor, Systems Administrator and Programmer at the University of Florida plays an essential role on the university’s [IT team](#). He is an experienced industry expert with many years of IT leadership and network management expertise. He is responsible for managing and reporting network usage for the entire campus, managing DNS, DHCP and IPAM governance and for keeping the entire network up and running at all times. Justin has become a leader in UF’s initiative to consolidate and standardize IT infrastructure in order to optimize and maximize all IT provided services, and to keep all users safe and secure online.

The University of Florida has been a successful and loyal Infoblox customer since 2011.



**Customer:** University of Florida

**Industry:** Higher Education

### Solutions

- DNS, DHCP, IPAM
- Infoblox Grid
- DNS Security
- Considering BloxOne Threat Defense SaaS Solution

### Outcomes

- Zero network outages
- Zero known cyberthreats
- Improved network management
- Improved network visibility and reporting
- Improved customer experience

## The Challenge

Prior to partnering with Infoblox almost nine years ago, the customer was faced with network management and centralization challenges. Each department across campus was all running its own solution for DNS and DHCP, which led to UF's urgent need to standardize and centralize network management. The IT team needed to reduce the risk of outages and increase visibility into its network.

## Superior Customer Experience and an Outstanding Customer Advocate

Once the customer successfully implemented Infoblox's DNS, DHCP and IPAM solution, the customer finally had a central location to easily manage and govern the entire network. The first step towards standardization, however, was to convince other departments to migrate off their existing infrastructure onto Infoblox.

Taylor personally travelled to each department on campus to introduce them to the new Infoblox solution in order to understand the value of Infoblox and to migrate to the Infoblox Grid. Taylor explains that "Once we explained the value of Infoblox to each department, they quickly realized that all they had to do was log in and the solution sold itself." He even took the time to create a checklist for what IT needed from each department to successfully migrate to Infoblox. Approximately 85% of UF migrated right away, while the remaining 15% is in the process.

## Replacing Competing Vendors with a Simpler Solution

UF is also home to [Shands Cancer Hospital](#) which is part of the customer's health system. Shands Cancer Hospital has had a particularly positive customer experience with Infoblox. The hospital originally had a solution implemented from competing vendor BlueCat Networks. The solution was reported to lack sustainability or network reliability it needed to manage the growing network or to keep its sensitive data secure. The hospital quickly followed suit with the UF IT team and replaced its existing solution with Infoblox. "Infoblox's solution is scalable and makes it easy to add more grid members and redundancy automatically. I was able to work with Infoblox Professional Services team to design a separate, improved grid for Shands which I can now manage and maintain easily," Taylor recalls.

## Value and Solutions – Measurable Outcomes

By migrating off of aging and unreliable hardware set up across the network, the customer has improved network uptime almost completely minus human error. The customer has had zero network outages since implementing Infoblox, counting all departments across the entire campus. The customer also benefits from the built-in cybersecurity features on Infoblox appliances. The customer has suffered from zero known cyberthreats to date as well. As a result, cybersecurity is not an afterthought, rather it is already baked into the entire solution and integrates with existing security tools.

## Next Steps: Securing the Future

The customer continues to work with Infoblox's Professional Services team to finalize remaining migrations of various UF departments. UF is also considering taking its cybersecurity to the next level with a more comprehensive hybrid security solution that will easily scale for future network growth.

## For More Information

Learn more about how you can [proactively detect malware](#) and protect your users and data via DNS. Visit the Infoblox website or start your [free trial of Infoblox BloxOne Threat Defense](#) technology today.



Infoblox is the leader in modern, cloud-first networking and security services. Through extensive integrations, its solutions empower organizations to realize the full advantages of cloud networking today, while maximizing their existing infrastructure investments. Infoblox has over 12,000 customers, including 70 percent of the Fortune 500.

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