



Security-Data and Collaboration in Education





The higher education sector has a unique set of security challenges because of its diverse user groups that require varying access privileges.

Zero trust is a comprehensive approach to securing all access across your networks, applications, and environment, helping secure access from users, end-user devices, APIs, IoT, microservices, containers, and more.



Background

Higher education organisations have one of the highest rates of people bringing their own devices (BYOD) onto the network, with students, faculty, alumni, researchers, and other users requiring high bandwidth access from anywhere. As universities grow and attract and retain greater numbers of students from home and abroad, the number of devices and complexity in keeping the network secure grows, too.

Universities also handle huge volumes of sensitive, personal and financial data, putting them at greater risk of cyber-attacks that are becoming more and more sophisticated and increasing in volume. Following the Covid-19 pandemic, the number and regularity of malicious attacks by cyber criminals has increased, as they take advantage of significant disruption and seize the opportunity arising from rushed pandemic response measures and vulnerable IT systems and organisations.

Challenges

BYOD – A diverse set of users, entry points, and increasing adoption of cloud technologies are hard to keep up with.

User experience – Faculty and students don't want to use security solutions that slow down their everyday work.

Budget – Administrative and help desk burden is high with budget pressures and overworked IT and security teams.

Security – Never-ending phishing attacks are compromising accounts and user information, leaving institutions in hot water.

How SCC and Cisco Can Help

Cisco Duo is a cloud-based security platform that protects access to all your applications, for any user and device, from anywhere and enables Cisco Zero Trust. It's designed to be easy to use and deploy, while providing complete endpoint visibility and control.

Cisco Zero Trust combines security expertise with a user-centered philosophy to provide multi-factor authentication (MFA), endpoint remediation and secure single sign-on tools. It enables the policies and control you need to limit access based on endpoint or user risk. Users get a consistent login experience with single sign-on that delivers centralised access to both on-premises and cloud applications.

The Cisco Zero Trust security framework helps you prevent unauthorised access, contain breaches, and reduce the risk of an attacker's lateral movement through your network. Assume zero trust when someone or something requests access to work assets. You must first verify their trustworthiness before granting access.



Better secure access across your applications and environment, from any user, device, and location. Cisco Zero Trust helps protect your organisation by consistently enforce policy-based controls, giving visibility into users, devices, components, and more across your entire environment, and providing detailed logs, reports, and alerts that can help you better detect and respond to threats.

The Benefits

BYOD – Cisco Zero Trust deploys to all BYOD users, protecting all devices on the network quickly and easily.

User Experience – Cisco Zero Trust reduces adoption barriers through a streamlined interface and self-enrolment process that reduces the burden on IT admins to get users enrolled.

Budget – Cisco Zero Trust saves money and eases the management burden for admins with affordable pricing and simplified cloud management capabilities.

Security – Cisco Zero Trust enables organisations to defend against phishing attacks whilst MFA secures users’ credentials and protects research and student data with secure identity verification.

Why SCC and Cisco?

SCC is a leading Cisco UK Gold partner with a long-standing partnership spanning two decades. With a dedicated Cisco technology specialist team with experience working with higher education customers, providing consultancy, design, implementation, post-sales, and on-going management services to meet our customers’ business and technology needs.

Contact the team today to find out how we can help.

