

Belgium Campus iTversity CASE STUDY



BELGIUM CAMPUS ITVERSITY PARTNERS WITH BRAINTREE TO MODERNISE IT INFRASTRUCTURE

INDUSTRY SCENARIO: Belgium Campus iTversity has partnered with Braintree to modernise its IT infrastructure, transforming its virtual machine (VM) environment to offer students and educators fast, accessible, and consistent computing systems.

KEY BENEFITS:

- **Legacy systems rebuilt into high-speed computing infrastructure**
- **Access enabled from any device, eliminating the need for costly equipment**
- **Standardised user experience across all campuses with automated cloud backup**
- **Software updates deployed system-wide in minutes**
- **Seamless on/off-campus access via Raspberry Pi-powered infrastructure**

Belgium Campus iTversity, in collaboration with Braintree, has overhauled its IT systems—replacing existing machines with agile and efficient and superfast computing solutions. These modern systems are now easily accessible to both students and educators, regardless of device or location. Even more, stepping away from current expensive computer hardware that needs continuous upgrades and replacement and still outperforms any current hardware.

The institution offers a wide range of high-level IT qualifications designed to equip students with future-ready skills. However, its existing infrastructure was no longer optimum to support the increasing demands of hybrid learning environments. "We needed a cloud partner who

could understand the complexities of our infrastructure and support the implementation of our vision," said Christiaan Els, IT Manager at Belgium Campus iTversity.

For years, Belgium Campus has championed maintenance-free IT classrooms—a model adopted by many schools across the country to simplify IT operations, particularly where technical support is lacking. "At Belgium Campus, we were operating on VirtualBox with powerful Dell servers. But with the rise of hybrid and online learning and heavier software loads, we had to rethink our entire system," said Els

"The existing market solutions and hardware simply couldn't meet the demands of a modern iTversity. So, we developed a system that could support our current and future needs while drastically cutting infrastructure and hardware costs. Our custom-built solution remains one of a kind."

To bring this vision to life, Belgium Campus reached out to Microsoft partners globally—from Egypt and Mauritius to London and New York—before ultimately connecting with Braintree. "From the moment we spoke with Braintree, we knew we had found the right partner to help scale our small concept into a large-scale, future-ready implementation."

SIMPLE, SPEEDY AND ACCESSIBLE: A REAL-WORLD SOLUTION

"Our first attempt involved building a number of standard VM servers with 200 GB RAM and a 64-core CPU," Els explained. "But it couldn't keep up. We needed more speed, more security, and greater scalability, keeping in mind the affordability"

That's where Braintree came in—with the collaborative expertise to scale and refine the project. In January 2024, the transformation began. Affordable Raspberry Pi devices were introduced as the infrastructure backbone, delivering an elegant and cost-effective solution.

The result? A fully integrated environment that allows students to access classes and resources from any device—whether it's an older laptop, Android TV, or tablet. Licensing and performance issues are a thing of the past, and software updates now take minutes to roll out across all locations. Student work is automatically backed up to the cloud, ensuring data is safe even during power outages.

"It was one of the most challenging yet rewarding projects we've undertaken," said Els. "The Braintree team, along with our in-house development team at Belgium Campus, were instrumental in making our vision a reality."

EDUCATION REIMAGINED

"Initially, we needed to win over internal stakeholders and demonstrate how this new system would improve the learning experience," said Els. "Today, the response from both students and staff has been overwhelmingly positive."

As the Education Director added:

"Our mission is to provide students with access to the latest technologies. With this solution, we can update and upgrade systems consistently and efficiently. We now have one unified system image across all campuses, and the student experience has been completely transformed. Regardless of their device or location, students enjoy a stable, high-performance learning environment."

CONCLUSION

This groundbreaking project has allowed Belgium Campus iTversity to completely reimagine how education is delivered—offering high-quality academic training on next-generation infrastructure, at scale.

As Chris Badenhorst from Braintree concluded:

"This solution was only possible because Belgium Campus iTversity had a clear vision, smart design, and a deep commitment to student success. We're proud to have partnered with Braintree in delivering this truly unique and future-focused system."

Exactly what you should expect from a specialised Higher education IT institute!

Belgium campus iTversity is physical active in Pretoria, Kempton park and Stellenbosch and hybrid accessible from anywhere else.

PRODUCT & SERVICES PROVIDED:	Azure Virtual desktop and Virtual Machines.
ORGANISATION SIZE:	126
INDUSTRY:	Higher Education for IT students
COUNTRY:	South Africa
BUSINESS NEED:	Cost-effective, accessible virtual machine solution.

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