

CASE STUDY

**Boosting Collaboration and Efficiency,
Plano ISD partnered with Armely to
Implement a Customized SharePoint
Online environment with a vibrant
and unified visual identity for each
campus.**

Plano ISD is an independent School District in Southwestern Collin County, Texas. It's the 18th largest school district in Texas and the 82nd largest in the United States. The school district serves over 50,000 students and employs over 3,800 faculty and staff across 73 schools, 2 special and 4 early education centers.

With such a large student body, faculty and staff, collaboration across departments, staff and students' groups plays a critical role in academic and administrative success.

CHALLENGES

While SharePoint Online offered a promising platform to centralize communication and resources, its initial implementation faced hurdles due to the sheer volume data, users and campus personalization. The school district faced the following challenges:

1. **Scattered Documents:** Documents were scattered across different folders, servers and personal drives making them hard to access.
2. **Version Control Chaos:** Version control issues led to confusion, errors and wasted time locating the correct documents.
3. **Compliance Concerns:** Uncontrolled access to documents posed security risks.
4. **Knowledge Management:** Important information and expertise siloed within teams.
5. **Content Search Inefficiencies:** Finding specific information within a large document repository was time-consuming.
6. **Limited Business Process Automation:** Automating manual business processes to improve efficiency and reduce errors.
7. **Disaster Recovery Concerns:** Locally stored documents were vulnerable to hardware failure or natural disasters that could be devastating
8. **Customization:** Lack of customization to boost each campus vibrant and unified visual identity.

SOLUTION

Plano ISD partnered with Armely to re-implement their SharePoint Online Platform while addressing the forementioned challenges.

Armely implemented SharePoint Online using a Hub and Spoke model to organize and connect SharePoint sites for the school district. This model was beneficial in multiple ways that included but not limited to

Unified Navigation: All connected spoke sites inherits the navigation from the hub site, creating a consistent user experience across the intranet.

Content Aggregation: News and announcements from Spoke sites are surfaced automatically, rolled up and displayed on the hub site, keeping everyone informed.

Centralized Search: Students, faculty and Staff are able to search for content across all connected spoke sites from the hub site, simplifying information retrieval.

Improved Governance: Permissions and settings are managed centrally through the hub site, streamlining administration.

Scalability: The model easily accommodates growth as the ISD can add new spoke sites to the hub as needs evolve.

Content Integrity: Versioning allows access to stored versions of documents, lists, or other content items in case of accidental edits, deletions, or data corruption.

Branding & Customizations: Allowing each school to have their own branding and customization made this project uniquely amazing, it became personal.

BENEFITS

Enhanced Organization and User Experience:

- **Unified Navigation:** All connected spoke sites inherit the look and feel (branding) and navigation structure from the central hub site. This creates a consistent and intuitive user experience across intranet, making it easier for users to find what they need.
- **Centralized Search:** Forget hunting through individual sites. Students, faculty and staff can search for content across all connected spoke sites directly from the hub, saving them time and frustration.
- **Simplified Site Creation:** Creating new team or departmental sites becomes a breeze. Spoke sites inherit settings and configurations from the hub, saving time and ensuring consistency.

Improved Collaboration and Information Sharing:

- **Content Aggregation:** News and announcements from individual spoke sites are automatically rolled up and displayed on the hub site, keeping everyone informed of important updates across the school district.
- **Streamlined Navigation:** Users can easily navigate between related content residing in different spoke sites due to a consistent navigation structure. This fosters collaboration and knowledge sharing across departments.

Simplified Administration and Governance:

- **Centralized Management:** Permissions and settings for all connected sites are managed centrally through the hub site. This reduces administrative overhead and ensures consistent governance across your SharePoint environment.

- **Improved Version Control:** Versioning functionality allows tracking changes made to content within both the hub and spoke sites. This ensures that a revert to previous versions if necessary is easy and maintains a clear audit trail.

ABOUT ARMELY

We are a technology company focusing on Business Intelligence, Data Analytics, and Visualization, notably on Microsoft, AWS, Salesforce (Tableau), and GCP. We make Big Data Simple for our customers by taking a vendor-agnostic approach to ensure you get the best of the technology. Our vision to Empower Organizations to achieve more through Data allows us to corral data and turn it into actionable insights. We strive to be your strategic partner and adviser in your Business Intelligence, Data Analytics, and Visualization and Automation journey.

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