

Södertörn University

Unit4's cloud-conversion customer, Södertörn University, sees \$500k+ savings over 11 years.

Located in a suburb of Stockholm, Södertörn University is a forward-thinking "University College" that bridges the higher education experience beyond Sweden's government-sponsored high school into collegiate coursework. With 13,000 students, 850 university employees and revenue of more than 650 million Swedish Krona (just under \$100 million U.S.), the thriving 16-year-old institution has an optimistic eye on the future as it changes with new economic requirements.

Acclaimed for both the quality of its 60 academic programs and its innovative focus on environmental/ societal change impact in the Baltic region and Eastern Europe, Södertörn University is a higher education market trendsetter. In fact, in 2001, it was the very first Unit4 enterprise resource planning (ERP) customer to move from an on-premise Unit4 Business World (formerly Unit4 Agresso) software deployment to become the company's first cloud-transitioned customer.

Today, it is an archetypal Unit4 customer: an entity that has not only survived but thrived in changing circumstances; a textbook example of "Education Living in Change". Unit4's post-implementation agility capabilities – in both its software and deployment options – enable Södertörn University to embrace change adroitly. It does this by managing financial and people resources, by providing a secure network environment to its constituents and by leveraging leading-edge technology – without the maintenance headaches that accompany on-premise deployments.

The Need

Södertörn University started using the Unit4 solution from its inception in 1996. It initially deployed the software on-premise, but five years later, that needed to change. "We were in rapid expansion mode, both in our student and faculty population, and it was the right juncture for us to realign what we wanted our internal priorities to be," said Anna Sande, IT Systems

Administrator at Södertörn University. "When I came here in 2001, we had been using Unit4 Business World (formerly Unit4 Agresso) for five years and had about one third of the student population that we have today. The University administrative team was assessing and reorganizing assets for the best way forward. We wanted to redeploy internal resources to move away from pure technology-related support and instead move towards programs that benefit students."

The Solution

In 2001, Södertörn University became the very first Unit4 Business World on-premise customer to move seamlessly to a cloud environment. Its decision was that a cloud deployment model would be beneficial for the university in a number of areas: it would save costs; eliminate distractions like new hires and additional software and training, which would be required for data security and maintenance issues; and provide the ongoing agility the University needed, to face whatever "growing pains" and adjustments might be necessary to support change over the coming years.





The Benefit

Eleven years later, and having successfully responded to a number of both expansion and resource consolidation requirements, Södertörn University reflects that its early decision on a cloud deployment model was absolutely on target for its needs. Furthermore, the University can track the equivalent of more than \$500,000 in savings enabled by moving to Unit4's cloud deployment model, based on the ability to consolidate technology resources, re-allocate dedicated headcount requirements and/or re-assign IT roles. "From a financial perspective alone, moving off-premise to the Unit4 cloud deployment option is a significant budget advantage," Sande said. "But when you add in the additional benefits, this is a compelling advantage for any education institution dealing with change."

In addition to the substantial savings, Unit4's globally documented easy-change capabilities have fueled the University's ability to remain nimble. "We've had the twin change-management realities of rapid student growth, interfacing with changing economic factors that are challenging to predict and plan for," Ms. Sande says. "We've adjusted from one campus to three and then, in 2012, back to one large one again. We

required zero external IT resource help to do it – the change capabilities of the Unit4 architecture have supported our various business decisions seamlessly."

Emboldened by the long-standing ability to adjust easily, the University plans to tackle another major operational change in 2013, and will reorganize from six institutions to four. "This requires substantial hierarchical role changes and administrative adjustments," Ms. Sande said. "Roles, reporting, everything will change again, and our Unit4 cloud solution allows us to do this easily, without organizational disruption."

In addition to the savings and change capabilities, Södertörn University also credits these advantages to its Unit4 cloud deployment:

- 1. Data and Accessibility Security:** Highlighted by the University as a core objective, based on government mandates/audits, University officials state that the Unit4 cloud deployment of Unit4 Business World is so strong from a security/uptime standpoint that government officials tell them: "We don't even need to contact you anymore."

2. Latest Technologies/Software Features: Unit4's multi-tenant cloud solution always has its customers on a single, newest release that is continually (and simultaneously) upgraded to all constituents. "We never have to be distracted by new versions, upgrades or enhancement – they just flow through," Ms. Sande said.

3. Less Training, More Freed-Up Capital: Ms. Sande says she can easily estimate the equivalent of another \$6,000 per year that the University is saving in avoiding the need to hire/update/train staff and IT resources, if any ERP solution were deployed on-premise. "In today's economy, we chose instead to direct our resources to more substantive programs that improve our University capabilities and reputation, not our infrastructure."

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Södertörn University



About Unit4

Unit4 is a leading provider of enterprise applications empowering people in service organizations. With annual revenue north of 500M Euro and more than 4000 employees world-wide, Unit4 delivers ERP, industry-focused and best-in-class applications. Thousands of organizations from sectors including professional services, education, public services, not-for-profit, real estate, wholesale, and financial services benefit from Unit4 solutions. Unit4 is in business for people.

Unit4 has been supplying administration systems covering Finance, Research, Students and HR to Further Education and Higher Education markets and now provides solutions to over 500 education customers worldwide.

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