AMA University trains students in software testing

AMA University and Colleges work in partnership with HPE to improve graduates employability

Objective
Provide training in software testing to meet a need in the Philippines market

Approach
Work with an external partner to deliver training modules

Business Matters
- Enabled fast roll-out of course with 'train the trainer' approach
- Improved employability of graduates due to software testing skills and HPE certification
- Increased the attractiveness of AMA to potential students
- Kept costs competitive with e-book training materials

When AMA University and Colleges wanted to add a software testing module to its IT degrees, it turned to Hewlett Packard Enterprise to help deliver the training. The new course adds another skill to the credentials of graduates of AMA's various IT college degree courses and improves their employability. This software testing module also makes AMA more attractive to potential students.

Challenge

Competitive education market
AMA Education System, considered the biggest private educational network in the Philippines, to which AMA University and Colleges belong, has over 150,000 students enrolled in over 200 campuses, not just in the Philippines but worldwide. Today, the system has seven schools in the Philippines - AMA University and Colleges, ABE International Business College, ACLC and ACLC College, St. Augustine School of Nursing, St. Augustine International School (Basic Education) and Delta Air International Aviation Academy.

AMA is the recognized pioneer and leader of IT education in the Philippines and has the largest number of IT universities and colleges in Asia. In the field of IT, according to Dr. Amable C. Aguiluz IX, AMA always strives to be one step ahead of the rest.

Customer at a glance

HPE services
• HPE Software Education Services

"When we noticed that there was an increasing demand for graduates with software testing skills, we decided to add a course to address this need. We looked for the best way for this to happen so we turned to Hewlett Packard Enterprise."

Solution

Train the trainer

To provide software testing, AMA wanted to work with an external partner. It already had a strong existing relationship with HPE and had been using HPE hardware in its computer labs over the last three years. HPE proposed a training program that met AMA's needs, and the two organizations decided to work together.

"When we initially talked to HPE about training, they proposed an online model, but that can be difficult in the Philippines due to problems with internet connections," says Aguiluz IX. "Then, HPE came back with a model based on e-books, which are lower cost than using printed books and suits the way our students learn, because most of them already don't use paper textbooks."

The AMA students for the new course are spread out across around 100 locations in the Philippines and the teaching time is around three hours per week over a three-month period. This meant that providing face-to-face training from HPE instructors would not be practical.

Instead, HPE Software Education delivered a three-week training module to around 40 of AMA's lecturers, who can then teach the software testing course to their students. This has enabled AMA to quickly develop the required skills to get the course up and running. HPE also provides AMA with student kits and temporary software licenses.

Initially, the University is planning to enrol 5,000 students on the new program, and then to grow this number in the coming years.

Benefit

Improved employability

"The main benefit to students is improved employability after graduation," says Aguiluz IX. "If you have knowledge in software testing, then you're better equipped when you graduate from college and are likely to have more options."

For AMA, offering this software testing increases its attractiveness to new students, helping them to boost enrolment. Working closely with a major company like HPE also helps the University to improve its image.

"In the Philippines, HPE is very well known, so being able to offer a course with them is attractive to students and AMA is the first university in our country to provide this kind of training," says Aguiluz IX. "Our students also benefit from receiving a certification from HPE when they complete the modules.

"HPE has been supportive and flexible, and a good partner to work with. We are already planning the second stage of this program, and will be expanding the partnership with HPE to our international branches, including Nigeria, Iraq, Bahrain and Macau."

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