UCLA

CUSTOMER SPOTLIGHT

Teaching data to tens of thousands of high school students around the world

SUMMARY:

Introduction to Data Science (IDS) is an interactive high school statistics and probability curriculum created by UCLA and the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) with a grant from the National Science Foundation. We spoke with Suyen Machado, Director, UCLA K-12 Data Science Education, and Monica Casillas, Associate Director of Professional Development, UCLA K-12 Data Science Education, about how the program has scaled to support hundreds of high schools and tens of thousands of students from all around the world in their pursuit of data literacy.

ABOUT:

As a public research university, our mission revolves around the creation, dissemination, preservation and application of knowledge for the advancement of global society. UCLA combines the close-knit, engaging atmosphere of a spirited public institution with the expansive opportunities found in a world-class city.

INDUSTRY:

Education

TECHNOLOGY USED:

Posit Cloud

posit®

The Challenge:

Overcoming curriculum and infrastructure barriers

The IDS project initially struggled to integrate data science into existing subjects like biology and algebra because teachers found their current curricula too packed to accommodate new material. Furthermore, when the program moved toward a dedicated course, it faced a massive technical hurdle: the local servers required to run professional data tools were difficult for individual school districts to maintain. This created a significant barrier to entry, as many schools lacked the IT resources to support the complex infrastructure needed for a modern data science classroom.

The Solution:

A scalable, cloud-based learning environment

By shifting to Posit Cloud, UCLA eliminated the need for school-managed servers, allowing the program to scale to over 151 schools globally. This platform provides teachers and students with instant access to industry-standard tools like RStudio and Jupyter Notebooks through a simple web browser, removing all installation friction. Combined with a hands-on participatory sensing curriculum and dedicated professional development, this solution empowers even those without prior programming experience to lead 21st-century data science lessons with confidence.

Learn more at `posit.co` > | Read the `full story` >

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