



# PROMAX CASE STUDY: STUDENT LAB

## Platform Supports Thousands at UNC Chapel Hill

**Approximately 3,500 students created projects working on the UNC Chapel Hill Media Lab network** during the 2013 academic school year. The Media Lab is divided into two parts, with one section available 24 hours. A combination of 22 iMacs and 8 MacPro Towers running Adobe Creative Suite 6 support student projects.

With this level of traffic, Greg Klaiber, UNC Media Lab Manager says the school was primarily looking for superior system performance in a shared storage server, and that they were willing to spend a little more if the system would work better for the teachers and students.

The school was evaluating Isilon storage and a couple other systems (a variety of 10 GbE, copper and fiber options) when a ProMAX email landed in Klaiber's inbox reminding him that ProMAX would be worth looking into. He recalled that UNC's communications department already had a ProMAX solution in place.

According to Klaiber, **"It was absolutely critical to be able to integrate with Active Directory"**. With so many users coming through the labs, one key question that he asked each vendor was how many simultaneous users could the system handle? "ProMAX was the only one that said their system could support 30 concurrent users without a problem." Beyond Platform's Active Directory functionality, Klaiber cites ProMAX's value and superior customer support as other deciding factors influencing the school's purchase.

The Media Lab is now running a ProMAX Platform Online with 128 TB of shared storage.

"Having Platform is such a HUGE upgrade. It's made my life easier in so many ways, on very basic levels." Klaiber has employed Active Directory to set up automated scripts for managing users. He's set up permissions such as a log in script that recognizes if you don't have a folder set up, it will create one for you and assign the appropriate permissions, exactly as he's predetermined.



THE UNIVERSITY  
of NORTH CAROLINA  
at CHAPEL HILL





# PROMAX CASE STUDY: STUDENT LAB

## Platform Supports Thousands at UNC Chapel Hill

Klaiber says managing group work has been more flexible, benefitting both the students and faculty working on the system. “You can set permissions as you want which is VERY helpful,” he notes adding, “Teachers create a folder with links on the server which has eliminated the need for them to do Firewire pre-loads before classes. **What was formerly laborious is now a non-issue.**”

Another example of increased efficiencies is how Platform has impacted managing the 24 hour lab unit. Now using Active Directory it’s easy to set up group work. So, after the main lab’s 9:45 closing time, students can continue work off the server and there’s no need for instructors to have to wait around after hours to handle file permissions management; they can head home.

And regarding the performance goals: the Platform network with 10GbE Copper connectivity is performing beyond expectations. Klaiber exclaims, “That SAN is stupid-fast! I copied over 200 GB of files in under 20 minutes!”

He summarizes the entire Platform experience stating, “I’m extremely happy with the Platform and have been singing its praises to other schools.”



To learn more about Platform visit us at  
[www.promax.com](http://www.promax.com)