

FLEXIBLE FOUNDATION FOR MASS DEPLOYMENT

Indiana University

Indiana University Discovers Comprehensive Control with the Q-SYS Platform

 Bloomington, IN

Across nine separate campuses, Indiana University (IU) serves over ninety thousand students in its mission of education and service. The scope of IU's impact is rivaled only by its ambitions for the future, with a major goal being ensuring a successful learning environment for all of its students. Part of facilitating this goal is the technology infrastructure – making it simple for professors to begin and end classes, thus allowing more time to interact with their students, as well as building a reliable and scalable deployment system. With this in mind, the IU team embarked upon their journey with Q-SYS.



“**Q-SYS has been a godsend, and support calls are almost non-existent.**”

Mark Russell

Group Manager, Learning Spaces and Technology Services, Indiana University

Challenges



Comprehensive Control

Robust control solution to run hundreds of classrooms across multiple campuses.



Flexible Foundation

Pre-bundled classroom components that left room for later customization, allowing for bulk orders and higher return on investment.

The Spark of Potential

“At first, we just thought of Q-SYS as merely audio DSP,” smiles Mark Russell, Group Manager of Learning Spaces and Technology Services for Indiana University. “When Q-SYS released [Q-SYS Reflect Enterprise Manager](#) we began seriously evaluating their capability as a control platform and eventually deployed it in the Alcove.” The Alcove is a sandbox classroom and staging space where the IU team is able to experiment with new technologies, a testbed to tinker and validate before deploying at enterprise scale. Mark continues, “Through our validation testing we quickly realized that Q-SYS has done a fabulous job of creating a full-featured control system, and began considering scenarios where we might deploy it to the larger pool of general assignment classrooms.”



Solutions

Deploying at Scale

With Q-SYS chosen to be the solution for the lifecycle of over five hundred classrooms across the Bloomington and Indiana campuses, it was time to start the process of deployment. “With Q-SYS you have complete flexibility to add on additional components without having to pull in a separate DSP or amplifier,” Mark explains, “So instead we focus on the room. We can order components ahead pre-bundled and make decisions later on; audio, video, switching, control, touch panels, components that are required everywhere. Q-SYS allowed us to step back and look at the common denominators of all classrooms.” This modular methodology enables the IU team to ensure their product requirements are met with competitive pricing and plenty of lead time before the actual installation. And by having a standardized foundation, each room is largely designed with only a few later-stage customizations. Mark describes, “Previously we were doing a lot of individual designs. Every time a classroom needed to be designed, we had to start from scratch. Now, we have that template built into the space package and all we have to do is create the secondary portion. It’s a real time-saver.”

Time Well Spent

Student experience is a dominant consideration for today’s institutions, especially facilitating an impactful and long-lasting learning environment. Time with professors is one important aspect of meeting this goal, and the IU team quantified this by setting an unspoken goal of lowering the time it took for professors to start and end lectures. “We typically had a ten-to-fifteen-minute turnover between classrooms,” Mark remembers. “We then tapped into the HTML5 capabilities of the GUI on the instructor’s laptop so that they had access to the room controls and their files immediately. We knocked the start time down from ten minutes to just a few minutes, and the faculty absolutely love it.”

A Growing Partnership

With a solid partnership in place, the IU team is on track to continue to transition roughly eighty-five rooms a year over to Q-SYS following their modular deployment plan, alongside the majority of conference and meeting rooms. “Q-SYS’ balance of plugins and CSS to create a dynamic environment is fantastic, alongside the control capabilities and overall flexibility,” Mark concludes. “While we stay balanced on our approach, our testing has shown that Q-SYS is the obvious partner for us.” And as a founding member of the [Q-SYS Honor Roll for Higher Education](#) program (currently only available in the United States), Indiana University has shown itself not only to be a forward-thinking institution, but also a leading voice within the Q-SYS higher education ecosystem.



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qsys.com

QSC, LLC

1675 MacArthur Blvd.
Costa Mesa, CA 92626 USA

Phone 1.714.957.7100

Fax 1.714.754.6174

Toll Free 1.800.854.4079

Outside the U.S. 1.714.754.6175