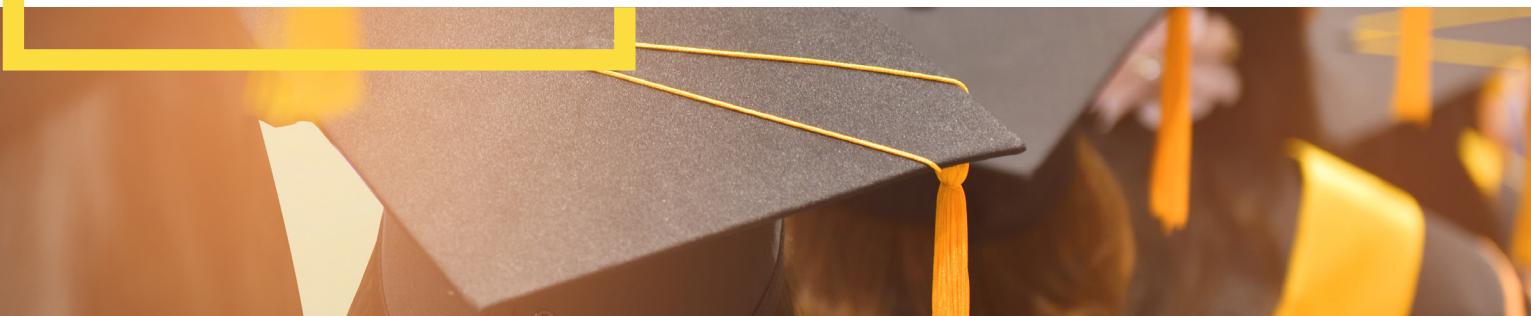**Rimini Street**®

University at the Top of its Class in Securing Critical Systems

XAVIER UNIVERSITY

Client Profile: Xavier University was founded in 1831 in Cincinnati, Ohio. The Jesuit university has more than 7,000 students and counts many notable politicians, entrepreneurs, religious leaders, athletes, and celebrities among its alumni.

Industry: Education

Geography: Cincinnati, Ohio

Applications: Oracle Database 12c, Oracle Fusion Middleware including WebLogic, Rimini Street Advanced Database Security, Rimini Street Advanced Application and Middleware Security

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>
> **Mark Brockman**
> *Executive Director of Information Technologies, Xavier University*

"I feel very secure with Rimini Street. The virtual patching is proactive and immediate. We're saving time and resources as well as being more secure."

– Mark Brockman, Executive Director of Information Technologies, Xavier University

For college students, there is the inescapable expectation that their higher education experience should leverage the same digital interactions that embellish other facets of their lives. "This means that we have to make sure that all of our touchpoints — including our public-facing online presence and systems and services restricted to current students and faculty members — deliver the very best possible experience and security," commented Brockman. "We're constantly striving to create an optimal and secure IT environment."

Technology as the Enabler

Xavier IT projects serve to improve the support of students. As such, one important initiative involved the planned transition of key functions to a managed cloud solution.

Having made the decision to implement this solution, Brockman faced the realities of financing it: "We had always been an Oracle shop, but fulfilling our highly expensive contractual license and support obligations while simultaneously funding this cloud move made us take a hard look at our approach."

Staying Supported and Secure

Facilitating the move, Xavier looked for a partner that could reduce the Oracle support financial burden without creating any operational disruptions or compromising the university's overall security.

"Security has always been of paramount importance to us. We are entrusted with large volumes of sensitive, confidential information," stated Brockman. "Xavier has always strongly adhered to FERPA and the multiple federal, financial, and other education-related regulatory mandates. We needed to make sure that we resolutely maintained this compliance.

"With ERP at the center of many of the university's critical functions, keeping the Oracle systems secure was a high priority … and a challenge. "We wanted to apply patches each quarter to over 60 WebLogic servers, but with modest resources, we were only able to do so twice a year, and even then, it was a struggle to maintain patching."

Benefits

- **50% reduction in database and application support costs:** Savings helped fund a transition to a managed cloud ERP solution.

- **Enhanced security:** Virtual patching provides zero-day protection with no regression testing and downtime, reducing burden on staff.

- **Improved support:** Caliber of technical support speeds problem resolution and addresses issues more effectively.

"We're saving time and resources as well as being more secure. My team is now able to work on strategic projects that make a tangible difference to Xavier. I would not hesitate to tell anyone in a similar position to take the leap and just do it!"

Mark Brockman
Executive Director of Information Technologies, Xavier University

For More Information

To learn more about Xavier University or to read other client success stories, visit www.riministreet.com/clients.

Further complicating matters, with so many servers, Xavier found some Oracle applications that were no longer fully supported by Oracle, so it could not receive security patches for those applications, leaving the university at risk.

Solving the Equation

The big breakthrough came when Brockman's research revealed a solution that delivered dramatic returns. "Talking with Rimini Street, we realized it was viable to extract ourselves from our Oracle contracts. We saw we could achieve significant cost savings, as well as elevated levels of support and security – exactly what we were looking for."

Xavier also implemented two Rimini Street Advanced Security solutions that use virtual patching to overcome limitations of traditional patching models, such as the need for extensive regression testing and system downtime. The Advanced Security solutions also provide alerts to the Xavier team when attacks are attempted.

The university's WebLogic Fusion Middleware leverages real-time zero-day vulnerability protection from Rimini Street Advanced Application and Middleware Security, protecting against known and unknown vulnerabilities using Java run-time detection and remediation before attacks reach their intended target. Because Xavier uses some older, popular releases (no longer fully supported by Oracle), it no longer needs to upgrade in order to stay secure . The Rimini Street solution, unlike traditional vendor security patching, protects immediately with minimal operations disruption and system performance impact.

Xavier's Oracle Database is protected from known and unknown vulnerabilities by continuous monitoring and analysis of database shared memory. The Rimini Street Advanced Database Security solution is enhanced with technology by McAfee and is a next-generation database security solution. Importantly, Advanced Database Security protects releases that are no longer fully supported by the vendor.

"We still have some older WebLogic releases that are no longer fully supported by the vendor. However, with Rimini Street, there is no need to perform unnecessary upgrades just to continue receiving support or security patches," commented Brockman. Both solutions were easy to install, requiring virtually no routine attention in contrast to prior services.

Brockman concluded, "I feel very secure with Rimini Street. Virtual patching is proactive and immediate. We don't have to sit around and wait for something to happen before we get sent a vendor patch months later.

"We're saving time and resources as well as being more secure. My team is now able to work on strategic projects that make a tangible difference to Xavier. I would not hesitate to tell anyone in a similar position to take the leap and just do it!"

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