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The Chronicle of Higher Education Featured Case Study on Baylor University's Innovative Identity and Access Management Solution Developed in Collaboration with Fischer Identity and AWS

NAPLES, FLORIDA – APRIL 16, 2024 – Baylor University's pioneering efforts in enhancing its identity and access management (IAM) system are showcased in a compelling case study published by The Chronicle of Higher Education. Developed in collaboration with Fischer Identity and Amazon Web Services (AWS), the case study provides a detailed exploration of Baylor University's journey from a homegrown solution to implementing an advanced IAM solution to meet their ever-expanding demands for a higher education environment.

As higher education institutions navigate increasingly complex challenges in managing user access and safeguarding sensitive data, Baylor University sought to revolutionize its IAM system to support growth and broader success. Through a collaborative effort with Fischer Identity and AWS, Baylor University embarked on a transformative journey to develop an innovative IAM solution tailored to the unique needs of its academic community.

The case study, featured on The Chronicle of Higher Education website, offers readers an inside look into Baylor University's strategic approach to enhancing its campus identity system. From the initial planning stages to the implementation of the solution, the case study provides valuable insights into the collaborative efforts between Baylor University, Fischer Identity, and AWS in developing and deploying the IAM solution.

"We are proud to be part of Baylor University's journey in implementing a cutting-edge IAM solution that sets a new standard for higher education institutions," said Bryan Leber, VP, Product & Service Delivery at Fischer Identity. "Through our collaboration with Baylor University and AWS, we have leveraged our expertise to create a solution that not only addresses the immediate needs of the university but also positions them for future success."

The case study underscores the importance of collaboration and innovation in addressing the complex IAM challenges faced by higher education institutions. By sharing Baylor University's success story, the case study aims to inspire other academic institutions and corporate entities to explore innovative approaches to identity and access management.

To download the case study published by The Chronicle of Higher Education about Baylor University's partnership with Fischer Identity and AWS, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/Baylor-Case-Study>.

About Fischer Identity:

Fischer Identity, a visionary leader in Identity and Access Management (IAM), is dedicated to empowering organizations with cutting-edge solutions that fortify security, streamline operations, and simplify administration. Our mission is clear: immediate value through IAM excellence. Our vision propels us to be the global IAM leader, pioneering cybersecurity's future. We're committed to a world where organizations navigate the digital realm with confidence, fortified by our innovative, Zero Trust-based solutions. Join us in safeguarding data, elevating user experiences, and achieving operational excellence.

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Building an Identity and Access Management Solution That Can Keep Up with the Demands of Higher Education

How Baylor University and Fischer Identity created a better, more secure access experience for students, employees, and guests by using the AWS cloud architecture

Many higher-education leaders recognize the rising stakes of cybersecurity.

Attackers frequently target higher-education institutions because these institutions serve so many personas, including faculty, students, staff, and guests — and because these institutions capture so much data across these personas. Government bodies have recognized this threat too: Title IV funding requires colleges to implement a [range of cybersecurity measures](#), and due to a [2018 policy mandate](#), every single data breach must be reported to the U.S. Department of Education.

However, the higher education sector remains a popular target, and the costs of data breaches continue to rise. [IBM research](#) shows that the average data breach at a higher-education institution in 2023 costs \$4.5 million — an increase of 15.3 percent from 2020.

According to Jon Allen, chief information officer (CIO) and chief information security officer (CISO) at Baylor University, in Waco, Texas, a potentially pivotal change is sweeping through many technical leaders: A reconsideration of identity and its centrality in cybersecurity.



Allen says identity was not a hot topic in higher education a decade ago. But higher-education leaders increasingly recognize that “Identity is really the matrix interconnecting it all.”

People touch an institution’s identity system whenever a prospective student applies, a faculty member is hired, or a visiting researcher needs a guest account. They make contact frequently as they create accounts, reset passwords, and request access to a website, file, or application. And every time a student graduates or a professor departs, the identity system must take all that access back.

That’s why Allen partnered with Fischer Identity, a leading provider of Identity & Access Management (IAM) solutions, to build an identity system that could manage all the personas Baylor served and, in the process, provide a system that could scale as Baylor grows. In addition, the Fischer suite of products is based on ease-of-use configuration rather than complicated custom code development to enable long-term sustainability.

In 12 weeks, Baylor went from a statement of work to a fully-executed solution that saved staff effort and secured sensitive information. The Baylor and Fischer teams — supported by Amazon Web Services (AWS) infrastructure and a range of AWS services — built an identity system that now manages and supports over several hundred thousand identities and accounts.

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WITH ACCESS DEMANDS RISING, A HOMEGROWN SOLUTION WASN’T SUSTAINABLE

Identity begins with applicants and Baylor receives tens of thousands of applications every year. A sustainable identity system for the university needed to carry each student profile — from the moment a student applies to Baylor to the day students step on campus and to the day they eventually graduate.

Bryan Leber, vice president of product and service delivery at Fischer Identity, says, “Higher education faces the same cybersecurity threats that others do,” but these institutions are often more vulnerable than others because the variety of personas and access needs in play exposes such a large surface area of attack.