Microsoft

achieve

Microsoft's Commitment to Georgia

In Georgia, a robust economy and effective education system benefit everyone. That's why Microsoft—in partnership with public and private organizations, community leaders, and business partners—is striving to foster innovation and economic development by improving access to powerful technology. Discover some of the exciting initiatives and investments taking place to help the people of your community achieve their full potential.

Empowering 21st Century Learning

Education is the single most important investment in our future. At the heart of its success are the people involved—the entire learning community—from teachers and students, to parents and administrators. Our goal at Microsoft is to support these people with innovative 21st century tools that enable student-centric, individualized learning; ongoing professional development; and, above all, greater flexibility in how, where, and when we learn.

The vision for 21st century learning is not a distant reality. It's already taking shape across the United States and within the state of Georgia where Microsoft is supporting initiatives by policy makers and individual institutions that are evolving better ways for people to manage, assess, and deliver education.

Providing the Agility to Innovate and Grow

Microsoft® platform development tools feature consistent standards and built-in capabilities that provide an easy roadmap for introducing innovative 21st century learning applications. An adaptive platform lets you evolve solutions in step with your needs to provide continual improvements, such as adding VoIP or video, automated management, and wireless security.

Making it Simpler for People to Manage IT

When it comes to 21st century learning, simplicity is crucial. If your IT people are to deploy innovative IT solutions—such as enhanced collaboration, student portals, and help desks—they need an IT environment that is simple and cost efficient to manage. The Microsoft platform is designed with consistent standards, operating systems, and application compatibility tools to make it simple to manage and scale. Microsoft also builds security, identity, and trust into every layer of the computing environment, protecting valuable data and your IT systems themselves.

Delivering Innovative Applications

Once you have a well-managed IT infrastructure in place, you can readily put an applications layer on top that lets you merge your communications to connect students, teachers, and parents to each other and a world of resources. You can also deploy innovative applications that make learning and teaching more collaborative, timely, and relevant. Using the Microsoft Learning Gateway Framework and the Microsoft Office system, institutions can provide individualized portal sites for all stakeholders. In one secure location, teachers can look up student data; book facilities; see the school calendar; and enter attendance, comments, and student observations. They can also create, edit, and distribute electronic learning materials and assignments.

If 21st century learning is to be a success, then in addition to innovative products and solutions, they need support. That's why Microsoft offers a suite of professional development programs, preferential pricing, recognition of achievement, and many industry partnerships.

Learn more about Microsoft's vision, initiatives, and roadmap for 21st Century Learning at *www.microsoft.com/education/roadmap.mspx.*

Partners in Learning

Partners in Learning is Microsoft's flagship program in education that seeks to partner with government and education leaders across the U.S. to deliver a portfolio of curricula, tools, and resources designed to advance 21st-century teaching, learning and digital inclusion. These partnerships result in exciting and impactful projects.

The Partners in Learning initiative supports Microsoft's long-term commitment to advancing the quality of education through innovative uses of technology, helping to empower teachers and students to achieve their fullest potential.

Through these partnerships, educators, students, and communities benefit from the following programs:

- **The Innovative Schools** program redefines learning through educational reform and innovative technology implementations that meet the challenges of 21st century learning.

- **The Innovative Teachers** program brings together communities of teachers to share their innovative ideas and best practices in teaching.

- **The Innovative Students** program provides affordable and reliable software to qualifying governments purchasing Windows-based PCs for primary and secondary students' personal use at home.

For more information on Microsoft Partners in Learning, go to *www.microsoft.com/uspil*.

Fresh Start for Donated Computers Program

Fresh Start is a component of the Partners in Learning program and provides schools access to Microsoft software. Fresh Start for Donated Computers provides K-12 schools with Microsoft Windows® 2000 licenses at no charge for donated computers that lack properly installed or licensed programs. For more information, go to *www.microsoft.com/education/FreshStart/FreshStart.asp*.

Tech Soup & Microsoft Authorized Refurbisher (MAR)

Microsoft's nonprofit partner, Tech Soup, donates software products to eligible nonprofits across the U.S. In partnership with Tech Soup, the Microsoft Authorized Refurbisher program provides Microsoft Windows Operating Systems to PC refurbishers—including schools—in the United States. Since 2003, TechSoup has provided more than $8.2 million in Microsoft software to nonprofits in Georgia. For more information, go to *https://www.techsoup.org/mar/default.aspx*.

Emory University Increases Efficiency, Lowers Costs with Unified Messaging Solution

Founded in 1836 and located in Atlanta, Emory University currently has multiple enterprise messaging solutions that support nearly 26,000 faculty, staff, and students. To help its users communicate and collaborate effectively, the university's IT department keeps up with new messaging products and technologies, and it continually expands and enhances the university's messaging systems.

In May 2006, Emory was invited to deploy a beta version of Microsoft Exchange Server 2007 Enterprise Edition. "We were very interested in Exchange Server 2007 because it has the potential to provide superior service at a lower cost," says John Ellis, Director of Client Technology Services at Emory University. "Efficient input/output operations will reduce the complexity of the back-end infrastructure, which is a big cost factor. Plus, Exchange Server 2007 has new features for disaster recovery and integrated unified messaging, so we were very much looking forward to using it."

In July 2006, after two months of research and planning, the university began setting up an Exchange Server 2007 pilot environment. For this phase, Emory worked with consultants from Microsoft Services and Enabling Technologies, a Microsoft partner. "The partner brought in its 'Exchange Rangers' to oversee the installation of Exchange Server 2007, which made the process much easier," says Ellis. "Microsoft Services also helped us prepare for installation by examining our [Microsoft] Active Directory® structure and performing system health checks. That was very beneficial."

 "From the beginning, we set up the pilot environment as if it were the foundation of a production-ready system," says Ellis. And in September 2006, that preparation paid off when Emory transitioned the environment to include 200 employee mailboxes. Users access their mailboxes through Microsoft Office Outlook 2007 and Outlook Web Access, using Outlook Anywhere. Many Emory employees also use mobile devices such as Palm Treo, Moto Q, and a variety of Windows Mobile® powered Smartphones and Pocket PCs.

"Configuring the unified messaging system was pretty simple," says James Reed, Lead Microsoft Exchange Server Administrator at Emory University. "We benefited from expert help from both Microsoft and Enabling Technologies professionals, who made the process easy for us."

"Even though the voice mail needs of Emory went well beyond a simple single-gateway, single-site configuration, the installation

was still relatively painless," adds Vaylor Trucks, Installation Engineer at Enabling Technologies. "Once the hardware was installed and configured, setting up the software was straightforward. In just one day, two of the three sites had working test mailboxes, and in just one week, three dial plans, three auto attendants, and several test mailboxes were all configured and working properly."

With Exchange Server 2007, Emory University is simplifying the management of its IT systems and gaining a very reliable messaging and collaboration infrastructure. New and improved calendaring, unified messaging, and mobility features promote anytime, anywhere communications that will improve user satisfaction and productivity. The new solution also uses resources more efficiently, which will contribute to a lower total cost of ownership (TCO), and it supports higher performance, tighter security, efficient routing and filtering of messages, and flexible compliance policies.

Read the complete case study at *www.microsoft.com/casestudies/casestudy.aspx?casestudyid=200052*.

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Georgia Tech College of Architecture Boosts Knowledge Sharing with SharePoint

Besides being consistently ranked as one of the top three engineering institutes in North America and ranked 7th in the nation among public colleges and universities, Georgia Tech prides itself on being a leader in applying technology to solve not only engineering problems, but business problems too. This includes the commercial world and the business of running a university, as seen in the Georgia Tech College of Architecture's decision to use Microsoft Office SharePoint® Server to enhance its ability to create, organize, and share information.

From the institution's perspective, being recognized as a technology leader has many benefits. First, it helps attract some of the best minds on the globe to Georgia Tech—not only as students, but as instructors. Second, it allows the institution to consult with businesses in Georgia and organizations throughout the world in applying best-of-breed solutions employing current and emerging technologies. This can provide a competitive edge in a world where communication parity is increasing, primarily brought about by the Internet. This could not have been more evident than when Georgia Tech assisted Atlanta in winning its bid to host the 1996 Olympics. As part of the "sales package," the IMAGINE lab, one of Georgia Tech College of Architecture's six research centers, produced a computer-generated virtual representation of what the facilities would look like for each of the venues. Committee members could actually see, in real time, not only the location of each event, but how the existing and planned structures would work in supporting the games.

The need to continually increase communication and collaborative capabilities has been recognized for several years as an important issue for Georgia Tech's College of Architecture. As can be imagined, referenceable intellectual capital developed over many decades has tremendous value to current faculty and students. The ability to access and share these assets without communication barriers is very important.

The College of Architecture set out to find a solution that:

- Is future-ready, with the agility, flexibility, and scalability to meet a broad, diverse, and evolving range of user requirements.

- Could be built on top of their existing infrastructure.

- Allows students, faculty, and business units to manage, archive, research, and retrieve documents and easily track revisions.

- Facilitates collaboration and communication using various voice, messaging, and conferencing options on multiple devices, including mobile units.

- Enables users to access data, perform tasks, launch and utilize applications from as few UIs (user interfaces) as possible, such as through Microsoft Office Outlook or a browser.

- Provides the ability to exchange data and assign tasks according to administrative workflow processes, data control policies, and/or end-user preferences.

"The new collaborative products will allow us to greatly expand services to our end-users with our existing infrastructure and knowledge assets.."

Robert Gerhart
Director of Technology
Georgia Tech College of Architecture

Because of Georgia Tech's reputation, the College of Architecture could have selected hardware and software products from any of the world's leading technology vendors; each anxious to have their wares showcased by the school.

"After spending several years evaluating a number of products we chose to stay with Microsoft, especially in light of the new product releases," says Robert Gerhart, Director of Technology for the College of Architecture. "The new collaborative products will allow us to greatly expand services to our end-users with our existing infrastructure and knowledge assets."

B2B Technologies, an Atlanta-based Microsoft Gold Partner, was selected to work with Georgia Tech College of Architecture and Microsoft in implementing the selected application. "MOSS [Microsoft Office SharePoint Server] is the product we were waiting for to integrate our existing applications and at the same time provide additional operability and mobility as a service to our diverse community of users. MOSS is a good fit for us both strategically and tactically," continued Gerhart.

By the middle of 2007, just a few months after their decision to use SharePoint, the College of Architecture has taken the first steps toward meeting their project goals. With this type of vision for the future, Georgia Tech is sure to remain at the forefront of technology as it has for the past 119 years.

New Tech Infrastructure Improves Access, Security in Georgia School District

Gwinnett County Public Schools—located in the metropolitan Atlanta area—is the largest school system in Georgia and one of the largest in the United States. Its 100-plus schools will enroll 160,000 students in the fall of 2007, a number expected to grow by 7,000 or more each year for the next decade. The district currently is planning to build an astonishing 37 new schools.

That makes the right technology infrastructure critical. But when Chief Information Officer Scott Futrell joined the district five years ago, that modern infrastructure was lacking. Schools were connected by a Novell NDS operating system that had limited support options and was designed so that most schools ran their own piece of the technology pie. The district was attempting to migrate to Microsoft Windows XP as its chief operating system, but the Novell software deployment tool did not support Windows XP, nor could security patches and updates be easily pushed district-wide.

A local sales tax that will pump approximately $1 billion into the district for new school construction and a technology overhaul allowed Gwinnett County Public Schools to begin an extensive upgrade of its technology base. Based largely on Microsoft products such as Microsoft Active Directory, Microsoft Office SharePoint Server, and Microsoft Windows Server®, plus third-party solutions and extensive investments in hardware, the new infrastructure has been rolled out in 16 high schools and is being implemented in 16 middle schools. All new elementary schools are built around the system, with older schools scheduled for retrofit.

Gwinnett County Public School's new technology infrastructure offers better security, faster performance, and easier maintenance than its predecessor. On the administrative front, support for the vast district has become much easier. "Before, we couldn't do anything in a centralized way," says Futrell. "Now, if we need to do a software patch, we can take one script in the central office and send it to every work station in the system. The hours saved on that, without having to touch all those workstations, is unbelievable. Think of how long it took to do that when we had to 'touch' 80,000 workstations." Security also has been improved throughout the system, and e-mail management and account provisioning has been simplified and centralized.

Support for the district's educators also has improved. "We are turning technology from a nice-to-have into a utility," says Futrell. "When a teacher walks in and turns on the lights, she expects them to work. Our goal is that when that teacher turns on the computer, and the lesson is planned around having access to that computer, it's available in a safe and secure manner so that the teacher is assured they'll have that instructional tool." Teachers also have been equipped with notebook computers to help with class planning, communicating with parents and others via e-mail, and managing student information.

By acquiring their software through the Microsoft School Agreement subscription licensing program, Gwinnett County Public Schools also has also reduced costs. Futrell estimates that the district will reduce its cost of ownership by $1.25 million over a five-year period.

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> Scott Futrell
> Chief Information Officer
> Gwinnett County Public Schools

Microsoft Provides $47 Million in Cash and Software to Georgia Communities

Since 2003, Microsoft and its employees have provided more than $47 million in cash and software to Georgia community organizations, schools, and human-service agencies.

A large amount of those investments have been in the form of grants for Unlimited Potential, a global Microsoft program that supports technology centers and skills training for local residents. Unlimited Potential donations to Georgia have included:

- Cash and software gifts of more than $110,000 to the Study Hall, an organization that works to enable youth in the Peoplestown area of Atlanta to become productive, competitive, contributing members of society.

- TechBridge, Atlanta's NPower affiliate, will implement a technology mentoring program at two local nonprofit organizations to augment and strengthen existing programs. More than $70,000 in funding from Microsoft will be used to support TechBridge's staff time in each of the two centers to organize the mentoring, provide training and mentoring, maintain equipment, and manage the process.

- Microsoft has donated more than $26,000 in cash and software to Global Support in Marietta, which works to empower individual members of our society to attain a higher quality of life by providing skills and supportive services.

In addition, Boys & Girls Clubs throughout Georgia have received more than $2.9 million in software, training, and curricula through Club Tech.

Microsoft Support for Georgia's Students and Teachers Stimulates Change in Education

Microsoft creates software and solutions that empower educators and students to do what they do best: interact, collaborate and learn. With discounts designed to provide the best software at the best prices to educational institutions, faculty, staff and students—and through special licensing programs, world class consulting services, and educational partnerships—Microsoft is enabling more Georgia students and teachers to use the latest educational software tools.

The Microsoft Campus Agreement and Microsoft School Agreement programs provide schools a flexible and affordable way to run a selection of Microsoft products on an annual subscription basis. Even if the number of computers or users grows, the school remains fully licensed for the term. Schools also can license students for use of select products on personal or institution-owned computers checked out to a student for the school year. Plus, the school automatically receives the benefits of Microsoft Software Assurance Membership.

With Microsoft transactional licensing programs, Microsoft Academic Open License and Microsoft Academic Select License, institutions acquire perpetual licenses while eliminating the costs and packaging of retail software. They also have the option of enrolling in Software Assurance, which entitles them to product upgrades during the agreement term, e-Learning courses, and more.

Learn more about Microsoft's licensing programs for educational institutions at
www.microsoft.com/education/howtobuyinstitution.mspx.

Get a Price Quote

The State of Georgia has a Microsoft volume licensing contract through Dell Inc. You can obtain a price quote by visiting *www.dell.com/SLG/GeorgiaSoftware.*

Extending Academic Discounts to Students and Educators

Georgia educational institutions also can use Microsoft licensing programs to provide licenses to students and educators to support technology usage from school to the home.

Institutions that participate in the Campus Agreement or School Agreement programs can include the Student Option. With the Student Option, these institutions can license students for a selection of products on an annual basis and provide usage rights to the latest releases of the software.

Another option for extending academic discounts to students and faculty is through the Microsoft Student Select program. Participating institutions can use their volume licensing discounts to acquire software licenses, and then pass on the licenses—and the savings—to students and faculty.

The Student Select program enables students (through their parents if they are a minor) and faculty to buy single Microsoft products for home use at a discount of over 85 percent*. The program makes it easy and affordable for students and faculty to work on school projects on a home computer using the same Microsoft programs used at school.

To find out if your institution is participating in the Campus or School Agreement Student Option or the Student Select program, contact your institution's technology administrator's office, media library specialist, computer store, or bookstore.

*Stated discount based on comparison of estimated retail prices of Microsoft Office Professional 2007 full retail packaged product to estimated academic retail prices of Microsoft Office Professional 2007 CD through the Student Select program. Actual reseller prices may vary.

More than 340 Microsoft employees live and work in Georgia

Rockdale School District Revamps its Presence on the Web

A Web site today can play a vital part in fulfilling a school district's educational mission. It can help keep parents up to date on school activities, help teachers reach out to parents and students, and help administrators communicate about important educational initiatives.

The Rockdale County School System in Georgia worked with the community to identify some school system areas of focus. Improving communication was one of the three major interest points. They wanted to redesign their Web presence, and at the same time take advantage of the capabilities of Microsoft Office SharePoint Server to improve the look and capabilities.

So in 2006, Rockdale enlisted the help of Microsoft partner B2B Technologies to overhaul its Web sites. "For this effort we wanted to accomplish two things," says Grover Dailey, the district's Director of Technology. "We wanted a portal that would give us a better communications tool internally and externally. And we wanted to standardize the look of information, so if you went to an elementary school site to find a school schedule, then a middle school site to look for the same thing, they'll be in the same place."

> "We have better communication across the district now."
>
> Grover Dailey
> Director of Technology
> Rockdale County Schools

The district was on a fast track; work began on the new site in May of 2006, with a goal of rolling it out before the new school year began in early August—and the goal was met. Dailey admits that might have been too fast. It took several months before teachers and administrators were comfortable with the shift from Web sites designed with Microsoft Office FrontPage® to those based on Microsoft Office SharePoint Portal Server 2003. But now most teachers have individual sites operating, and the target is to have 90 percent of the school's teachers managing classroom sites soon.

"We have better communication across the district now," says Dailey. "Parents can check on what's happening in classes, and teachers can share documents and materials much more easily—they don't have to be converted to HTML first." Teachers also can collaborate on "team" sites to discuss ideas for everything from curriculum development to band uniforms.

Now the district is setting its sights on extending its new Web capabilities to mobile devices and, in time, moving to Microsoft Office SharePoint Server 2007 to take advantage of new and improved features.

Institute Cuts Costs, Boosts Efficiency with Exchange Server Unified Messaging

Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI), originally called the Engineering Experiment Station, was created in 1919 by the Georgia Legislature to provide high-quality engineering research. Today, the nonprofit organization is the applied research arm of Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, Georgia. Its 1,200 employees, working in seven labs and 10 field offices, perform more than U.S. $100 million in research and development annually for more than 200 customers in industry and government around the world.

In 2004, GTRI deployed Microsoft Exchange Server 2003 throughout the organization, as well as a third-party unified messaging system that provided employees with voice mail in their e-mail inboxes. While the system offered GTRI stable performance, IT personnel weren't happy with its high cost: $100 per phone for licensing and $10,000 per year for maintenance. In addition, a new solution would require additional time and money to configure and integrate.

GTRI wanted a new solution that would reduce costs and provide more advanced features. It also sought to expand on unified messaging by deploying collaboration tools such as instant messaging and conferencing to offer a comprehensive unified communications system.

It decided the best option was to deploy unified messaging with Microsoft Exchange Server 2007. Exchange Server 2007 Unified Messaging provided better integration and more-advanced features than other solutions, he says. And it didn't require any additional licensing costs because it was covered under Exchange Server licensing. "It was a matter of Exchange Server Unified Messaging bringing us a cheaper licensing solution, along with additional functionality," explains Chris Slater, Manager of Systems Development at GTRI. "It's not often you find something that costs you less and gives you more."

The deployment, excluding the planning stages, took 10 business days and two weekends, says Jenkins. Three people from GTRI and two from Enabling Technologies, a Microsoft partner, were dedicated to the project during the first 10 days, and two GTRI staff members will be dedicated to it going forward. "The length of time it took from start to finish certainly surprised us," says Jenkins. "The whole process of implementing Exchange Server 2007 was far smoother than we expected it to be."

For collaboration, GTRI has already implemented Microsoft Office SharePoint Server 2007, so that it's easier for employees to share and work together on documents. It plans to further integrate communications by deploying Microsoft Office Communications Server 2007, which provides presence and instant messaging capabilities. The solution also includes an on-premise version of Microsoft Office Live Meeting for conferencing. And it incorporates software-powered voice over IP (VoIP), allowing users to make, receive, and manage phone calls anywhere in the world using Microsoft Office Communicator 2007.

Because GTRI will no longer pay $100 per phone in licensing fees, the move to Exchange Server Unified Messaging will save GTRI money. "We'll save 25 percent in up-front costs by not having licensing fees, and yearly maintenance costs will go down $10,000 a year," Jenkins says. Some cost-savings, however, are not so easily calculated, he adds. "We know that there is a huge amount of money we are saving in productivity that is immeasurable," Jenkins says.

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>
> Chris Slater
> Manager of Systems Development
> Georgia Tech Research Institute

Moving to Exchange Server Unified Messaging improves the efficiency of GTRI employees, who depend on timely communication and teamwork to complete their applied research tasks. Eventually, GTRI expects the move to Exchange Server Unified Messaging will also help GTRI reduce employees' dependence on desktop phones in favor of wireless devices that will give them more flexibility.

Exchange Server Unified Messaging is an important step for GTRI as it unifies its communication and collaboration tools. By integrating Exchange Server with SharePoint Server 2007, GTRI is helping users work together more easily. "We can now publish results on a SharePoint site so others can do reviews on them," says Jenkins.

GTRI will be able to further enhance communications when it deploys Office Communications Server 2007. Users will be able to use presence to know when people are available and how best to contact them. They will also have the ability to quickly escalate an instant-message session to a computer-based phone call with a click of the mouse. "That's going to be completely new functionality for the organization," Jenkins says. "It's going to be a big benefit."

B2B Technologies

Headquartered in Atlanta, B2B Technologies is a Microsoft Gold Certified Partner providing technology solutions to K-12 and Higher Education institutions throughout the Southeast. B2B combines extensive education experience with deep expertise in Microsoft technologies to deliver leading-edge solutions to education organizations of all sizes.

Selected by Inc. Magazine as one of the Fastest Growing Private Companies in America, B2B delivers cost-effective solutions to the educational institutions while fostering the best-of-breed ideas gained from its work with commercial clients. As schools and universities deal with the challenges of the 21st century, B2B is here to help them take advantage of the newest Microsoft tools and technologies—from Portals and Data Warehousing to a new Bus Tracking System. B2B's goal is to help create a learning environment that is unified and productive for students, faculty, administration, and their respective communities.

Learn more at *www.b2btech.com*.

Mid-South Independent School Business Officers (MISBO)

MISBO is a professional development organization for business officers of independent, private, not-for-profit schools. Headquartered in Atlanta, GA, its purpose is to open channels for communication on business matters important to independent schools. One of the benefits of the organization is MISBO Purchasing, which facilitates the joint procurement of a wide variety of goods and services used by its member schools. MISBO Purchasing currently services over 246 member schools with a student population of over 148,300.

Member schools are eligible to participate in the Microsoft School Agreement volume licensing program. By aggregating all of the schools under one agreement, they receive the best pricing. In addition to the financial benefit, member schools are able to remain current with product updates and upgrades, as well as receive access to support resources and tools.

Learn more at *www.misbo.com*.

Microsoft Services

Microsoft and our partners both support and provide integrated applications that enable staff and students to teach and learn in innovative ways, while streamlining school administration. These applications leverage the Microsoft platform, meet industry standards, and are aligned with the continually changing needs of educational institutions.

Microsoft has a world class consulting organization available to help education customers design and deploy Microsoft solutions. Through close partnerships with local expert technology partners, the Microsoft Services team ensures deep knowledge of Microsoft products and technologies. This knowledge is used to architect and deploy solutions in the most optimal manner, making them manageable for IT staff and adaptable and extensible for end users.
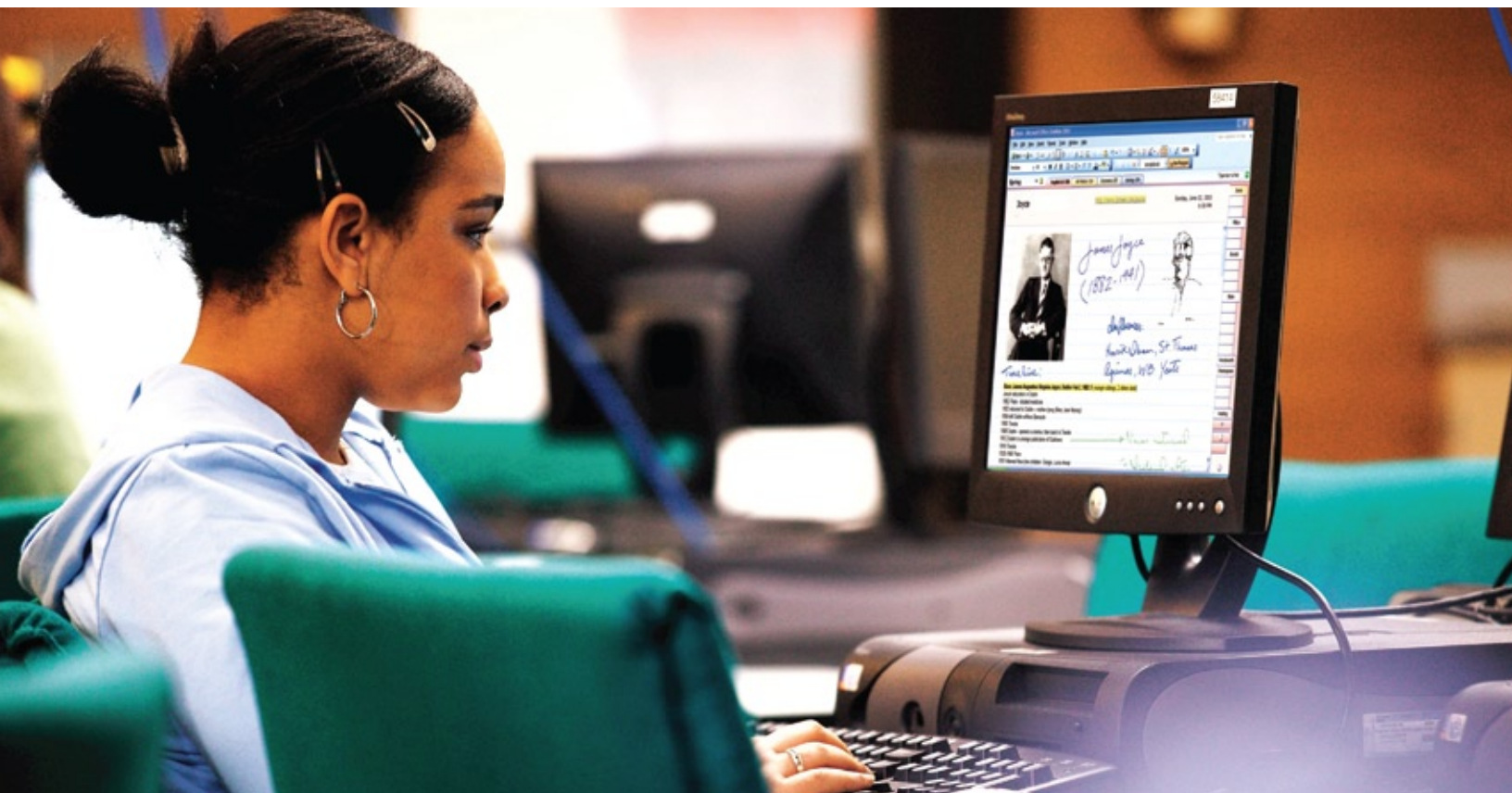
Learn more at *www.microsoft.com/services/microsoftservices/*.

Thousands of Microsoft Partners Build Technology Solutions in Georgia

Microsoft works with thousands of local partner companies that build technology tools and services on the Microsoft platform, including nearly 90 Microsoft Authorized Education Resellers specially trained to sell Microsoft Academic Edition software solutions.

Nearly 240 Microsoft Certified Partners are working throughout Georgia, more than 240 have earned the Gold certification.

Visit the Microsoft Public Sector Partner Solution MarketPlace at *www.microsoft. com/industry/publicsector/ partnersolutionmarketplace/* to locate a Microsoft partner specializing in education and government.

Microsoft®