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## M – Enabling Distance Education

**A Case Study (Series-1) September 2008**

### Introduction

A system and a process that connects learners to distributed learning resources other than attending courses in person, students may communicate at times of their own choosing by exchanging printed or electronic media, or through technology that allows them to communicate in real time. Distance education courses that require a physical on-site presence for any reason including the taking of examinations is considered to be a hybrid or blended course or program.

India has a large number of Distance education programmes in Undergraduate and Post-Graduate levels. The trend was started originally by private institutions that offered distance education at certificate and diploma level. By 1985 many of the larger Universities recognized the need and potential of distance education in a populous country like India and launched degree level programs through distance education. The trend caught up, and today many prestigious Indian Universities offer distance programs. Two such universities are;

**Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences**, centered in Bangalore, India, is a unitary university set up in 1996 by the government of Karnataka, for the regulation and promotion of higher education in health sciences throughout the state of Karnataka. About 276 colleges throughout the state are placed under the Rajiv Gandhi University in order to establish uniform standards in academics and administration.

**MGR Medical University**, Chennai, India deals with all medical and paramedical degrees. Both of these and many private and public, non-profit and for-profit institutions offering courses and degree programs through distance education.

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## The Need

Distance education has long had trouble with security/ leakage of question papers. Distance learning courses have also had difficulty in controlling mal-practices during events such as quizzes, tests, or examinations due to a lack of monitoring and control mechanisms.

## Interim Solution

Universities such as Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Dr. MGR Medical University and Karnataka University have addressed the issues concerning the leakage of examination question papers by incorporating a controlled environment. The question papers were encrypted and uploaded to hosting sites. The decryption codes were then sent to invigilators on their handheld mobile phones before the examination.

## Gap

The solution however failed to deliver on two critical parameters: the speed information delivery and failover. Since the solution had certain hardware dependencies, the optimum results were not being generated.

## Solution

After a thorough examination & analysis of the requirements, ValueFirst (a global leader in "Enterprise Mobile Messaging Services") in collaboration with a technology partner proposed its best-in-class application ValueFirst Velocity. ValueFirst Velocity is an enterprise class SMS suite designed to create, process and transmit SMS in a complex database environment. It provides highly reliable automated mobile messaging platform.

ValueFirst application enabled the universities to send their critical messages on a Just-In-Time (JIT) basis onto the mobile phones of invigilators.

The mobile messaging suite in addition, offers complete automation of various communication processes such as College to Student communication, College to Parent communication etc at these universities.

## ValueFirst Messaging Pvt. Ltd.

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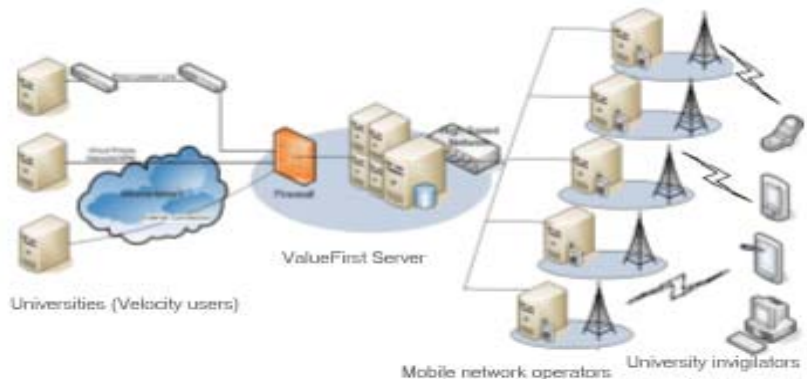
### Benefits

- Reduced Communication costs.
- Reduction in delivery time of information due to automation.
- Provided remote connectivity for internal communication.
- Easy to adapt technology enabled mass reach.
- Provided high security for delivery of question papers.
- Excellent throughput of ValueFirst ensured delivery of critical information on time.

### ValueFirst USP

- 24 X 7 supports.
- Least time to market – deployment typically is done in one day
- Scalable solution in terms of architecture
- Highly configurable products - processes can be configured on-the-fly
- Redundancy of servers with load balancing, failover mechanism and least cost routing
- Carrier-Class enterprise mobile messaging including delivery reports and queuing in case of server breakdown
- Redundancy of operators by virtue of being connected to multiple mobile network through operators and aggregators globally

### ValueFirst Mobile Data Service Architecture



### ValueFirst Messaging Pvt. Ltd.