



Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany

A Communications Channel For Students, Staff and Visitors Across 5 Campuses and 40 Locations

Goethe University is one of the largest institutions in Germany and spans 5 campuses in the modern metropolis of Frankfurt am Main. SpinetiX was chosen to grow the university's digital signage network of screens in order to easily diffuse communication to more than 40,000 students daily.

The [SpinetiX digital signage solution](#) is widely known for its ease of use, ability to centralize content management across multiple geographical locations, and minimal maintenance required.

Challenges

The strict requirement for a centralized and scalable solution that is robust enough to require minimal maintenance and be managed by a small team, tipped the scale overwhelmingly in favor of SpinetiX. In particular, the digital signage solution installed at Goethe University Frankfurt has to answer to the following challenges:

- **Meet varied communication needs** including departmental information from 16 faculties and administration, events information, practical and health info, and third-party advertising
- **Content and maintenance should be managed centrally** while deployed across multiple remote campuses
- **Allow for minimum investment** during future expansions of the system
- **Features reliable professional-grade technology** that runs for at least 10 hours a day, 7 days a week and requires minimum maintenance
- **Deliver content securely from multiple sources of data** including social media accounts, calendars and local city info
- **Distribute content across multiple display types** – including ones that are part of an older installation, as well as the newest screen models



Solution

To answer the challenge, the university service company, [CampuService](#) sought the assistance of German-based SpinetiX Certified Gold Dealer [Cotive](#) who offered the [SpinetiX complete digital signage solution](#) comprising of [HMP300](#) digital signage player along with SpinetiX [Elementi](#) digital signage software to thoroughly meet the end-customer requirements.

SpinetiX HMP players – simple to install, use and maintain

A growing fleet of 40 SpinetiX HMP300 players was deployed across all five university campuses at 40 single-screen locations.

SpinetiX HMP players are sought-after for professional use and provide robust around-the-clock operation in public areas, compact design, and no moving parts. The installation was completed solely by the CampuService staff and a network administrator from the university.

The players installed throughout the Goethe University campuses deliver content to multiple screens of varying brands, sizes, and age that the university acquired at different times and some of which were part of an older, now obsolete, signage system. The versatility of SpinetiX HMP players, combined with a stellar reliability track record and ease of use when distributing content from a centralized location won over the end-client.



“We love the scalability of the solution. We grow our network little by little, starting initially with a few screen locations. This has now grown to 40. In the future we are considering expanding the network to even more locations.”

JESSICA KUCH

Multimedia content manager, CampuService at Goethe University Frankfurt

Centralized content management made easy with Elementi Software

A single staff member equipped with [Elementi M](#) digital signage software, installed on a PC at the CampusService office is used to create, manage, update, and distribute content across all 40 locations across the five university campuses.

Elementi is part of the [SpinetiX complete digital signage solution](#) used to create, schedule, and publish content to a single or a network of SpinetiX HMP players.

All screen content at Goethe University Frankfurt is created or fed into the Elementi digital signage software and then onto the screens.

It includes the widest array of content: from practical information for staff and students of various departments – Biology, Mathematics, Business, Sports, university cafeterias – to information about campus events, and emergency alerts.



“The system is designed to be as environmentally friendly as possible. We use Elementi software to program the turning off of all players at 10 pm every day, regardless of where they are located.”

JESSICA KUCH
Multimedia content manager, CampusService at Goethe University Frankfurt

Opportunities to monetize digital content

The primary goal of the digital signage installation at Goethe University Frankfurt is to serve its students and staff as a free-for-all communications channel for university news and events' information.

In line with the mission of the university, the system is also used to offer paid advertising opportunities for third-party organizations who wish to recruit future graduates, or offer their services; for example, public-transportation or telecom discount offers for students.



Data-driven content with digital signage widgets

Elementi includes a set of 250+ customizable data-driven widgets that bring information securely on display from accounts that the university staff uses daily. Screen content on Goethe University grounds is enhanced with the university's live Twitter feed, Instagram account and information about on-site weather.

Signage applications across five campuses

The Goethe University Frankfurt spans five campuses dotted in and around the city of Frankfurt. All 16 university faculties ranging from Law to Physics, as well as the university clinic, sports center, post office, and cafeterias, benefit from SpinetiX digital-signage technology.



Physics Department –
Riedberg Campus

Faculties dispose with dedicated displays showing information oriented towards students and staff relative to the department as well as information for visitors, and in some cases – on-campus events.



University Clinic –
Niederrad Campus

The university clinic benefits from multiple screens located at the reception and throughout waiting and staff-breaking areas. On-display content varies between health advice, as well as information for students and staff.



Library –
Westend Campus

Communication displayed on the screen at the university library is aimed at economics and law students as well as library visitors. The screen is located right at the library entrance/exit.



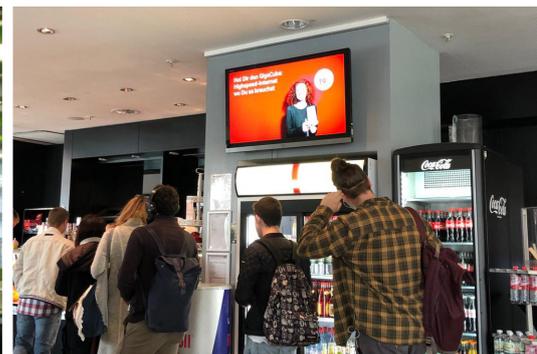
Social Sciences –
Bockenheimer Campus

The Bockenheimer campus benefits from a number of screens serving the departments of Law, Informatics, Mathematics and Language studies. The display content is suited for these faculties, as well as providing information about on-site cultural events.



Sports Entrance –
Ginnheim Sports Campus

The screen conveniently located at the entrance of the university's main sports building diffuses information relating to sports sciences, sports medicine as well as for visitors of the venue.



On-campus
Cafeterias

Various cafes and cafeterias throughout the university are also equipped with displays. Depending on the building they are located in, screen content varies based on the resident faculties and can range from IT, Mathematics-related information to visitor and events information.



Results

A system that genuinely grew on students and staff

The digital signage installation at Goethe University Frankfurt started off as an alternative and complimentary medium of communication with a single display more than 15 years ago. "It was frowned upon at the beginning as people thought we were installing a TV in an area reserved for students," says Jessica Kuch from CampuService, "however, things caught on quickly after that and people started grasping the idea behind it."

Nowadays, students and staff alike adore the depth of information that the system brings on the go. Digital signage has become an essential channel of communication for the university. Locations where screens are installed have become self-made social hot spots where students and staff come to seek for information and interact with each other.

A centralized solution that is easy to use

The SpinetiX digital signage solution installed on site allows for a single person to manage and distribute screen content at a click of a button to all screens part of the installation. No matter how remote, each player is connected in real time to the Elementi digital signage

software. In addition, maintenance is minimal due to the dedicated robust design of SpinetiX digital signage players. Any issue is spotted directly at the centralized PC where Elementi is installed as the players report their status in real time.

A future-facing installation that evolves and grows with the end-client's needs

The nature of the SpinetiX digital signage solution behind the university's installation is such that the system can be grown at a pace the end customer chooses. The same centralized content management technology is used regardless of the number of new displays the installation is extended with. CampuService grows the network regularly adding new locations, new screens, and new players.

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