



Enabling the **NSW** Department of Education to transform the future of education.

In a shifting digital landscape, government departments must increasingly explore a range of technologies to deliver education and assessment. Solutions must be agile and scalable to withstand the pace of change and meet student and educator demands.

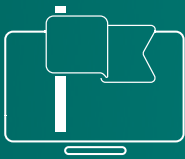
Janison creates platforms for teacher development, and formative and summative assessment, which are highly scalable and operate seamlessly within the department's existing infrastructure. These custom-built solutions streamline workflow processes and give educators real-time analytics that help inform targeted teaching and intervention strategies - driving better education outcomes.

We invite you to read about how our solutions are transforming education delivery for the NSW Department of Education.



41,000

students across NSW sat the inaugural Best Start Year 7 exam in 2019



>6,673

completions per day



75,000

tests completed



Teachers administering the test found the system easy to use and the online format successfully engaged students to demonstrate their skills and understanding.



NSW Department of Education spokesman

Best Start Year 7.

Literacy and numeracy assessments for Year 7 students in NSW

The Brief

The NSW Department of Education (NSW DoE) selected Janison to build and deliver a new assessment under the Literacy and Numeracy Strategy 2017–2020, a four-year plan to ensure students have the essential literacy and numeracy skills they need for success in learning and in life. The Department was looking for a specialist digital assessment provider to help it achieve the key aim of the new exam: to quickly identify students at risk of falling behind and pinpoint what type of support they need. As well as offering government-grade reliability and security, the solution needed to be Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) that scales easily year to year and seamlessly integrates with all schools' existing systems.

The Challenge

As acknowledged by the former Minister of Education, Adrian Piccoli, literacy and numeracy skills are the foundation for the next generation's success in learning and in life. It's critical for students to develop confidence in these skills, and falling behind can have devastating consequences for their secondary schooling.

The Department entrusted Janison to deliver the technology that can provide the rigorous evaluation of students' skills at a critical juncture in their education – the first weeks of Year 7 – and quickly provide intricate diagnostic data to allow for swift teaching intervention.

As sophisticated as the technology needed to be, it also needed to be user friendly for all levels of technical literacy among teaching staff, and to operate seamlessly within greatly varying levels of IT infrastructure between the 321 schools across the state taking part.

Our Solution

Best Start Year 7 demanded a sophisticated online platform that could efficiently deliver and process a considerable daily number of student test completions and feed a large volume of real-time data into NSW DoE systems, making valuable analytical information available for teachers almost instantly.

The Result

A NSW DoE survey of 293 early adopter schools who took part in the Best Start Year 7 professional training pilot found that more than 95 per cent agreed that the exam will help to identify students requiring additional support in literacy and numeracy.

Janison hosted the live assessment event over 31 schools days in February-March 2019, which comprised three exams: reading, numeracy and writing.

A total of 41,000 students sat these assessments, with an average of 2,400 tests completed daily. The highest number of tests in one day during the exam period was 6,673. The system auto-marked the literacy and numeracy portions, enabling real-time data delivery to the NSW DoE, while the platform's discrete marking features streamlined the marking process for the teachers who marked the writing portion of the exam. The platform operated seamlessly with schools' existing IT infrastructure, including student devices such as laptops, desktops, PCs, Chromebooks, iPads and Android tablets. ●





202,355

active users on the platform
– the largest in Australia



9,984

teacher-authors creating
content via distributed
authorship



>4.5M

course enrolments since
MyPL's launch

MyPL.

The largest online professional learning management system in Australia

The Brief

The NSW Department of Education (NSW DoE) asked Janison to create a platform that consolidates and streamlines all of its administrative and business processes for planning, managing and recording of professional learning for principals and teachers state-wide. Its key priority was the creation of tools to facilitate large-scale collaborative tasks and distributed authorship.

The Challenge

The new platform, to be called MyPL, needed to accomplish a considerable number of simultaneous tasks for hundreds of thousands of active users. This included daily course completion, flexible workflows for scheduling face-to-face and online courses, reporting and tracking each teacher and principals' professional development, as well as facilitating distributed authorship by an internal peer network of almost 10,000 users. In order to build the platform, Janison faced the sheer scale of the task of migrating NSW DoE's existing data – including a legacy system dating back six years and consisting of tens of millions of pieces of data – and navigating tens of thousands of catalogue items.

Our Solution

Built by Janison in 2017 and with more than 200,000 active users, MyPL is the largest professional learning management system in Australia. It's scalable to a million-plus active users. The platform enables distributed authorship course development by a network of almost 10,000 teacher-authors, including peer-based review and approval.

It also collects and documents educators' entire professional development journey including their mandatory training. To help users navigate the immense breadth and scale of content, Janison created an intricate tagging system across the platform which allows teachers to make detailed searches of tens of thousands of catalogue items.

The Result

The platform launched with a high level of success and uptake by staff. In its first year, it facilitated an average of 1,760,920 hours of learning per month, and to date has supported 4,495,491 course enrolments. It also continues to enjoy a high level of social engagement from teachers, with thousands of learner comments having been exchanged within the system. Importantly, MyPL's distributed authorship learner-author functionality allows a network of educators to actively author and engage in their and their peers' professional development. This supports NSW DoE's ethos for this aspect of the project, that "inclusive professional learning is part of how we make education a great place to work and that our workforce is of the highest calibre". ●





40,000

students from 650 schools sat the test in one day in 2010



81,300

pupils took the exam in 2016 – double the pilot number



20,000

students can be supported on the platform concurrently



We are delighted with the results. Janison are great to work with and are really leading innovation in this space.

Eric Jamieson

Former Director of Education Management,
NSW Department of Education

VALID.

Annual science testing for NSW students in Years 6, 8 and 10

The Brief

In 2010, the NSW Department of Education (NSW DoE) approached Janison to help it shift its annual Year 6, 8 and 10 science testing from paper-based tests to online assessment. As part of a wider commitment to improving science results, the Department also wanted to give students authentic, interactive test experiences.

The Challenge

Janison's remit was to host and deliver what was then recognised as the world's first online multimedia interactive whole cohort test to schools state-wide. The test, then called the Essential Secondary Science Assessment (ESSA), is now known as the *Validation of Assessment for Learning and Individual Development (VALID)* and is mandatory for Years 6, 8 and 10. Supporting tens of thousands of students on the platform simultaneously posed technological challenges, particularly managing data loads. Stable, consistent delivery was vital.

Our Solution

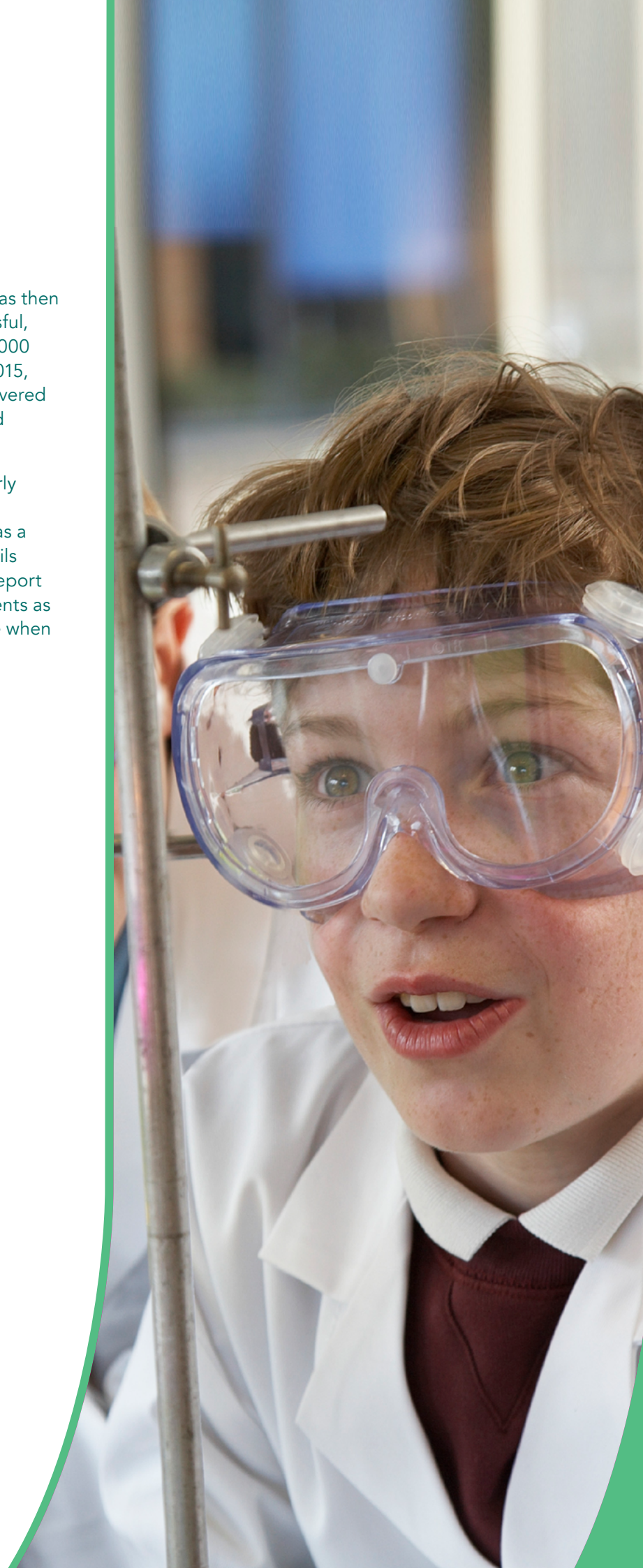
Janison addressed scalability, delivery and security challenges by taking a unique approach to services and architecture. To adhere to strict Government data sovereignty rules, it designed the application to store data in the on-shore Microsoft Azure cloud.

Janison also built multimedia tools into the *exam authoring features*. These allowed educators to author questions using animation that mimics practical classroom tasks, allowing students to work with virtual beakers, test tubes and measurement tools on the screen.

The Result

In October 2010, Janison delivered what was then a world-first: the first standardised, successful, large scale online assessment to nearly 40,000 students from 650 schools in one day. In 2015, more than 100,000 test attempts were delivered and marked. By 2016, the test program had doubled to 81,300 students.

Feedback from teachers involved in the early stages of the project was that VALID had transformed from being seen by students as a dull and dreaded exam into a test that pupils now actually looked forward to. Teachers report that they've never seen some of their students as engaged in a classroom activity as they are when they're participating in VALID. ●





Digital transformation in education is a journey.

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help you achieve real outcomes for
your department.

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assessment@janison.com

About Janison

Janison is an Australian-owned, publicly-listed education technology pioneer whose team of experts and developers innovate online assessment and learning solutions for global governments, educators and corporations. Since forming in 1998, Janison has advanced the use of digital technology to improve the way we educate and learn.

Janison's award-winning assessment and learning products are used in more than 100 countries, by millions of students and learners. For more information, go to janison.com