

## Sierra-Cedar Hosts Northeastern University's PeopleSoft Human Resources and Payroll 8.8 Applications



### BACKGROUND

Northeastern University (NEU), located in the heart of Boston, is a world leader in practice-oriented education and is recognized for its expert faculty and first-rate academic and research facilities. NEU employs approximately 1,100 full- and part-time faculty members and educates students from 50 states and 113 countries. NEU integrates challenging liberal arts and professional studies with the nation's leading cooperative education program, per *US News and World Report*.

<b>Industry</b>	Higher Education
<b>Services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Upgrade</li><li>• Implementation</li><li>• Hosting</li></ul>
<b>Application &amp; Modules</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• PeopleSoft HR Upgrade 7.5 to 8.8</li><li>• PeopleSoft Payroll 8.8 Implementation</li></ul>
<b>Client Since</b>	2003

### CHALLENGES

NEU faced a dilemma when it recognized that its current Payroll application was not meeting the needs required for everyday business operations. It was decided that an upgrade for its HRMS and an implementation of a new Payroll system was needed in order to enhance the service and capabilities of its PeopleSoft investment.

### SOLUTION

In April 2004, NEU selected Sierra-Cedar as its partner. The overall project contained three main objectives:

- Upgrade PeopleSoft HR and Benefits 7.5 to 8.8
- Implement PeopleSoft Payroll 8.8
- Port these PeopleSoft applications to the Sierra-Cedar Managed Services Center (CMSC) in Alpharetta, GA for hosting services

At the time NEU decided to look for a PeopleSoft hosting partner, there were not many consulting companies who provided hosting as a service. Among the few firms was Sierra-Cedar. NEU quickly realized that Sierra-Cedar's price performance and experience with PeopleSoft provided the highest service levels with the least risk. As a result, NEU signed a three-year hosting contract with Sierra-Cedar.

In the past, NEU's human resources only supported the current load of benefits-eligible personnel. Since the completion of its upgrade and implementation project, NEU has expanded support to the entire employee population. Due to the hosting services that Sierra-Cedar has provided, the university can now leverage its development team's skills to more strategic activities, such as enhancements and modifications. The university is comfortable with the knowledge that applications will remain reliable and available with Sierra-Cedar as its hosting partner.

## RESULTS/BENEFITS

Sierra-Cedar hosts NEU's human resources and payroll applications at its state-of-the-art data center. Sierra-Cedar guarantees controlled access and monitoring, automated environmental controls, triplicate power sources, and fully redundant Internet access. This guarantee allows NEU a secure, predictable, and cost effective method to manage its information assets.

*Out-hosting our PeopleSoft applications does not necessarily save money-that was not the intention. Out-hosting provides three key benefits to Northeastern. First, out-hosting gives us a less complex technical infrastructure and allows our PeopleSoft team to focus on service delivery and improvement. Second, the service levels offered by CMSC cannot be duplicated in house. And third, clearly, we cannot provide disaster recovery capabilities like CMSC.*

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