

BETTER TOGETHER

Why SCCM and LabStats are a Powerful IT Duo





Introduction

Effective IT asset management is critical for higher education institutions looking to optimize technology investments, improve student access to campus devices, and streamline IT operations. Microsoft System Center Configuration Manager (SCCM)* is a powerful tool for deploying and managing IT assets across campus, offering capabilities such as software deployment, patch management, IT asset tracking, endpoint security, and remote troubleshooting. It automates OS imaging, enhances security through automated updates, and integrates with Microsoft Intune for cloud-based management.

However, while SCCM excels in IT asset deployment and maintenance, it lacks the ability to provide real-time insights into how IT resources are actually being used. Without this visibility, institutions may be allocating resources inefficiently, maintaining underutilized machines, or missing opportunities to optimize their IT investments.

"It kind of started a whole conversation for us. It wasn't just about the data—it was about shifting our mindset."

*Eileen Galvin, Senior Director of IT
Columbus College of Art & Design*

This is where LabStats plays a crucial role. LabStats provides real-time and historical usage data, enabling IT managers to track computer and software utilization, reallocate underutilized resources, and make data-driven decisions to enhance student access and operational efficiency. By integrating LabStats with SCCM, higher education IT teams gain a complete IT asset management solution that bridges the gap between device deployment and actual usage.

In this guide, we'll explore how combining SCCM with LabStats empowers IT leaders to reduce waste, optimize budgets, and improve the student experience through smarter resource allocation and enhanced technology access. If you're using SCCM alone, you might be missing out on key insights that can transform your IT asset management strategy.

A note on naming conventions:

Microsoft's popular IT management tool has gone through several name changes over the years, which can cause confusion. Here's a quick breakdown:

Systems Management Server (SMS): This was the original name of the product when it was first released in the 1990s.

System Center Configuration Manager (SCCM): This name came later and became the most widely recognized, especially throughout the 2000s and 2010s. Many people still refer to it as SCCM even today.

Microsoft Endpoint Configuration Manager (MECM): In 2019, Microsoft officially renamed it to MECM to better align with its broader "Microsoft Endpoint Manager" suite, which includes tools like Intune.

Despite the official name being MECM now, many IT professionals still use SCCM out of habit or familiarity, and will be referenced throughout this guide.





The Gaps in SCCM— and How LabStats Fills Them

1. Device Deployment vs. Actual Usage

SCCM is a powerful tool for managing and deploying IT assets across campus, but it falls short when it comes to understanding actual device usage. While it allows IT teams to track and maintain an inventory of computers, it does not provide real-time or historical data on whether those devices are actively being used. Without this critical insight, IT managers may be unknowingly allocating resources inefficiently—spending time and budget maintaining, replacing, or upgrading machines that remain idle for most of the day.

LabStats Advantage:

- Identifies which computers are used most frequently and which are underutilized.
- Helps IT teams reallocate machines to high-demand areas.
- Reduces unnecessary hardware purchases, optimizing budget spend.



2. Peak Usage and Resource Optimization

SCCM provides valuable information on where computers are deployed across campus, but it lacks the ability to reveal when those machines are in highest or lowest demand. Without this key insight, IT managers may struggle to align resources with actual usage patterns, leading to inefficiencies in both budgeting and resource allocation.

For higher education institutions, where student access to technology directly impacts learning outcomes, this limitation can result in significant challenges. IT teams may unknowingly over-deploy devices in computer labs with dwindling traffic, leaving costly resources underutilized. Conversely, they may under-deploy high-traffic areas that see recurring peak demand, causing students to experience frustration due to unavailable workstations.

LabStats Advantage:

- Tracks peak usage times, helping IT teams make informed scheduling and procurement decisions.
- Enables institutions to align IT resources with actual student needs.
- Prevents wasted investments by reallocating underused technology.



3. Real-Time and Historical Data for Decision-Making

SCCM is a valuable tool for managing device configurations and deployments, ensuring that IT teams can track and maintain an organized inventory of computers across campus. However, it lacks real-time insights into computer availability and historical usage trends, leaving a critical gap in IT asset management. Without this data, higher education IT managers may struggle to optimize technology access for students and faculty, leading to inefficiencies in resource allocation and decision-making.

For example, SCCM can confirm that a computer is deployed in a specific lab, but it cannot show whether that computer is currently in use or has been sitting idle for hours. Without real-time availability data, students may encounter full labs while other locations have unused machines, causing frustration and inefficiencies in access. Additionally, the absence of historical usage trends means IT teams cannot easily identify underutilized resources or predict future demand based on past patterns.

LabStats Advantage:

- Provides real-time availability data, allowing students to locate open computers easily.
- Offers historical usage data to track long-term trends and inform future IT investments.
- Empowers IT teams with actionable insights for smarter decision-making.

Why IT Teams Are Adding LabStats to SCCM

Higher education IT leaders are recognizing that SCCM alone is not enough to manage IT assets effectively. LabStats enhances SCCM by providing the missing insights needed to maximize resource efficiency, save budget, and improve student access to technology.



Reduce Waste

LabStats helps IT teams identify and repurpose underutilized machines, ensuring that expensive resources are not sitting idle. By pinpointing low-usage devices, IT managers can redistribute technology to areas where it will have the greatest impact, reducing unnecessary hardware purchases and minimizing waste.



Improve Budgeting

With real-time and historical usage data, IT teams can optimize their budget allocation by investing in technology that is actually needed. Instead of making blind purchasing decisions, institutions can ensure they are acquiring and maintaining the right number of devices based on actual student and faculty demand. This data-driven approach prevents overspending while improving operational efficiency.



Enhance Student Experience

Access to technology is a critical factor in student success. LabStats ensures that computers and software are available where and when students need them. By understanding peak usage times and locations, IT teams can make informed decisions about lab hours, workstation placement, and resource allocation, ultimately improving accessibility and convenience for students.



Conclusion

While SCCM is essential for IT asset management, it lacks detailed real-time usage insights. Pairing it with LabStats provides a complete IT asset management solution—helping higher education IT teams reduce waste, optimize spending, and enhance student access to technology.

Next Steps

If you're ready to take your IT asset management strategy to the next level, start here:

Watch the Webinar

Learn how LabStats complements SCCM for a complete IT asset management solution.

[Watch the Webinar](#)

Book a Demo

Get a personalized demo and see LabStats in action.

[Book a Demo](#)

Don't rely on incomplete data—start making smarter IT decisions today with LabStats.

ABOUT LABSTATS

LabStats enables strategic IT asset management by delivering advanced monitoring solutions designed exclusively for higher education institutions. It provides cutting-edge insights and powerful tools to empower IT decision-makers to strategically manage their IT resources, maximize investments, streamline operations, and improve the student experience.

Learn more at labstats.com.