

Cougar Apps

MIS304

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Introduction

Recent advances in technology have made the ability to work and manipulate data from multiple locations a routine part of the way our society functions. With the evolution of web based applications, the ability to work and attain information has dramatically increased. The ability to update and maintain information using web applications without distributing and installing software on potentially thousands of client computers is a key reason for their popularity, as is the inherent support for cross-platform compatibility (Tyson, 2011). The popularity of web based computing and applications have increased with the invention of smartphone and tablet PC technology (Tyson, 2011). The ability to work from alternate locations has become a necessity in today's world, not only for businesses, but for students as well. With this in mind California State University San Marcos (CSUSM) has launched Cougar Apps. Cougar Apps gives students and faculty the ability to access documents and specialty programs from multiple platforms with an Internet connection (csusm.edu, 2011).

Cougar Apps Defined

Cougar Apps is a computer software application that is coded in a browser-supported language, combined with a browser-rendered markup language, and reliant on a common web browser to render the application. It is a new technology that was invented by Mark Lininager, and was introduced for student use in fall semester 2011. (csusm.edu, 2011)

This program gives students and faculty access to specialty programs as well as their own unique windows desktop, from anywhere with an Internet connection on multiple devices. Prior to the release and utilization of this software type of access was only available from on-campus workstations. (csusm.edu, 2011)

How to Use

Before the user can begin using the product, they must install the required software on their device. (csusm.edu, 2011)

Downloading the Citrix Receiver

There are several ways to install the Citrix receiver on a computer, smart phone, or tablet. The primary method is to download the Citrix receiver through the California State University San Marcos web page; www.csusm.edu.

The user will need to select the *Resources & Services* from the drop down menu of either *Student* or *Faculty & Staff*, depending on what type of user they are.

The screenshot displays the homepage of California State University San Marcos. The navigation bar includes links for Home, About Us, Admissions, Academics, Students, Faculty & Staff, Alumni, Community, and Giving. The 'Students' menu is open, showing options such as Student News & Calendars, First Year Students, Cougar Central, For Families & Parents, Resources & Services (highlighted), Library, Bookstore, Campus Life, Cougar Athletics, MyCSUSM, Cougar Courses and Online Instruction, and Webmail. The main content area features a banner for 'STEMMING FROM SCIENCE' with a video player and a 'PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS... IT'S TIME TO APPLY!' section. The footer contains social media links for Cougar Athletics, MyCSUSM, and Facebook, along with a 'Follow Us' button.