

CloudLabs to Showcase VM Labs Platform at EDUCAUSE 2026

Microsoft recommended alternative to Azure Lab Services, CloudLabs VM Labs enables higher education institutions to offer scalable hands-on learning environment

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EINPresswire.com/ -- [CloudLabs](#) by Spektra Systems will showcase its VM Labs platform at the EDUCAUSE Annual Conference 2026, taking place September 29–October 2 at the

Colorado Convention Center in Denver. At [Booth #2015](#), CloudLabs will focus on helping higher education institutions prepare for Microsoft's June 28, 2027, retirement of Azure Lab Services and transition to a modern virtual lab environment without disrupting teaching and learning.

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With Azure Lab Services retiring, we're excited to showcase CloudLabs VM Labs and how higher education can transition to scalable virtual labs built for the future of hands-on learning.”

Manesh Raveendran, CEO & Founder at Spektra Systems

Microsoft's Azure Lab Services retirement guide lists CloudLabs by Spektra Systems among its recommended partner solutions for organizations transitioning from Azure Lab Services. Microsoft has advised existing customers to begin planning their transition ahead of the June 2027 retirement date.

Microsoft announced the retirement of Azure Lab Services on June 28, 2027

With the retirement deadline approaching, institutions need to account for lab environments, course requirements, student access, faculty workflows, infrastructure, and cloud costs as part of their transition

plans.

Over the past year, more than 47,000 students across 85+ institutions have migrated from Azure Lab Services to [CloudLabs VM Labs](#).



EDUCAUSE

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Discover CloudLabs VM Labs at EDUCAUSE 2026

At EDUCAUSE, CloudLabs specialists will meet with institutions to discuss migration requirements, demonstrate VM Labs, and help teams develop a transition plan aligned with their academic calendars and operational needs.

CloudLabs VM Labs is designed to support the transition of existing virtual lab environments while providing institutions with additional capabilities for managing, monitoring, and delivering hands-on learning at scale.

Moving away from Azure Lab Services does not have to mean rebuilding an institution's virtual lab environment from the ground up.

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- Windows and Linux lab environments - Build and deploy customized virtual machines based on course and curriculum requirements.
- Browser-based access - Students can access their lab environments directly through a web browser without additional client software.
- Shadow VM - Faculty and administrators can connect to learner environments for real-time monitoring, guidance, and troubleshooting.
- Integrated lab guides - Deliver step-by-step instructions directly within the lab environment.
- LMS integration - Connect lab experiences with supported learning management systems using LTI 1.1 and 1.3.
- Automated cost controls - Set usage limits, schedule operating hours, and automatically shut down idle virtual machines to help control cloud spending.
- Dedicated and shared VMs - Support different instructional and cost models, from individual student environments to shared multi-session labs.

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Institutions that begin their migration early can evaluate their requirements, pilot new environments, validate faculty and student workflows, and phase the transition around their academic calendar rather than waiting until the retirement deadline approaches.

To help institutions get started, CloudLabs is offering \$0 migration fees and a waived first year of platform fees to eligible institutions that commit to migrating by October 31, 2026.

EDUCAUSE attendees can also request a guided evaluation or proof of concept to experience CloudLabs VM Labs before making a broader migration decision.

CloudLabs VM Labs is designed to support the transition of existing virtual lab environments while providing institutions with additional capabilities for managing, monitoring, and delivering hands-on learning at scale.

CloudLabs will also showcase CloudLabs Cosmos, its AI-powered lab builder, at EDUCAUSE 2026.

Cosmos enables educators and technical teams to describe a desired hands-on learning scenario using natural language and accelerate the creation of lab environments, guides, and validation workflows.

The goal is to make it easier for institutions to create and adapt hands-on learning experiences as curriculum and technology requirements evolve.

CloudLabs is a multi-cloud lab builder.

Beyond Azure Lab Services migration, CloudLabs provides a broader hands-on learning platform for higher education institutions, supporting virtual labs, cloud environments, guided learning, and technical training.

CloudLabs offers the following features:

- 1,000+ ready-to-deploy labs across cloud, AI, cybersecurity, data, programming, and other technology domains.
- Comprehensive monitoring and reporting to provide visibility into lab usage, learner activity, and cloud consumption.
- Browser-based access across devices without local software dependencies.
- Real-time instructor support through Shadow VM.
- Custom lab environments and learning paths designed around specific courses, programs, and institutional requirements.
- Multi-cloud capabilities across Azure, AWS, GCP, and other supported environments.

CloudLabs currently supports institutions, enterprises, training providers, and technology organizations delivering hands-on learning experiences at scale.

CloudLabs will be at EDUCAUSE 2026

CloudLabs #2015

CloudLabs is a multi-cloud lab builder.

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CloudLabs will be at EDUCAUSE 29-30 November 2, 2026

CloudLabs will be at EDUCAUSE 2026 #2015

- Discuss their Azure Lab Services migration requirements with CloudLabs specialists.
- Build a migration plan around their institution's academic calendar.
- See CloudLabs VM Labs in action through a live demonstration.

- Explore hands-on labs across multiple technology domains.
- Learn about CloudLabs Cosmos and AI-assisted lab creation.

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