


CUSTOMER SUCCESS

Manage user activity, prioritize application traffic and stop threats

Community School District #205
CUSTOMER:

Galesburg Community School District #205
 Illinois, USA
 (5,000 users, 9 locations)

CYMPHONIX PRODUCT:

Network Composer DC40X

SITUATION

Galesburg Community School District #205 is a public K-12 school district with over 5,000 students situated in Knox and Warren Counties, Illinois. A bustling network with 6 Elementary School buildings, 2 Middle School buildings, and 1 High School, District #205 keeps administrators busy. Including the buildings for Administration, Maintenance, and Pre-K, the district utilizes about 1,500 computers throughout the entire network.

Its four support technicians are fully responsible for keeping students safe from inappropriate Internet content. Year after year, these technicians struggled to keep ahead of tech savvy students who repeatedly found ways to bypass content filters. They tried multiple solutions, but all of them required daily maintenance to prevent filter avoidance. This included spending hours every day manually updating blacklists to stop anonymous proxies – common, yet hard to stop filter avoidance tools.

They also found that bandwidth performance was suffering. As bandwidth intensive websites, streaming media and other downloads have become more popular, administrators needed a way to

control bandwidth hogs so that critical traffic could get through.

Finally, spyware infections were becoming cumbersome – forcing administrators to constantly clean machines that had been affected.

CHALLENGE

After researching several different content filters, District #205 decided to implement Network Composer from Cymphonix to keep their network clean and clear. “In the past we have tried several different filtering solutions for our district,” said Rick Lawsha, Technology Director with the school district. “Every time we had a good solution the kids would figure a way around it.”

Network Composer takes a different approach by securing web traffic at the gateway. It is the only solution built specifically for schools that addresses both browsing and application activity. Because Network Composer sits inline and scans deep into the packet payload, it makes it easy to filter unencrypted and SSL encrypted browsing traffic and stop anonymous proxies and other content filtering bypass approaches. The device also allows adminis-

trators to easily prioritize bandwidth by URL, URL category and applications at layer 7. Finally, Network Composer blocks spyware and can automatically clean end user machines.

SOLUTION

District #205 purchased and installed a Network Composer DC40X. Installation was easy, and was accomplished in just a short time period. Most of the setup was straightforward and only took a few minutes. Immediately administrators saw an improvement in the traffic throughput. Within the first few moments of using Network Composer, administrators were able to see the types of traffic passing through the gateway. It also didn't take long to see who the "top talker" was on the network, and which stations were infected with spyware and viruses.

Sitting between the Cisco PIX firewall and the Cisco 450 core switch, all of the school's internet traffic now must pass through the Network Composer to enter or leave the network. Within one month of installation, Network Composer stopped 59 attempted virus downloads and over 20,000 spyware downloads for the district. Administrators felt that they could see the difference and recognized value of their new Network Composer on the first day of use. Advantages such as active directory integration, high throughput, smart/anonymous proxy avoidance, and visual, informative graphs have made administrator's jobs easier. The district's instances of false positives have dramatically decreased as well. Because it takes so little effort to manage the device, administrators don't have to worry about maintaining and updating Network Composer.

SUCCESS

"Probably the most important thing I've gained with the new Cymphonix filter is time. I find that I spend much less time per

day with this filter than any other solution I have tried," said Rick Lawsha, Technology Director with the school district. "Because of smart filtering and the low number of false positives, I can do a 'set and forget' on this box and go about my normal duties."

District #205 purchased its Network Composer DC40X through Speedlink Solutions, a certified channel partner in Naperville, IL.

SEE FOR YOURSELF

See how Network Composer delivers visibility, security, and performance in one reliable package. Contact your Authorized Cymphonix Reseller for an online demonstration or call or email Cymphonix at 866-511-1155 or sales@cymphonix.com



ABOUT CYPHONIX Cymphonix Corporation, headquartered in Sandy, Utah, uses patent-pending Cross-Layer Intelligence™ (XLi™) technology to provide unmatched network threat protection and resource optimization. With the powerful XLi engine, Cymphonix products seamlessly integrate network protection, application performance, and traffic visibility into a single, easily managed solution. Leading the Cymphonix product line is Network Composer, a smart gateway appliance that helps organizations understand at a glance who is abusing network resources and with what applications – enabling problems to be corrected instantly through a clear, easy-to-manage interface.



SMART NETWORK, SMART BUSINESS

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