

Academy Switches to Trend Micro to Protect Young Students

The latest release of Trend Micro™ Web Security Virtual Appliance boosts performance while increasing security.

“Trend Micro Enterprise Security solutions like InterScan Web Security Virtual Appliance give us fine-grained control—we can better implement our internal policies for protecting students and minimize the risk of disruptions that can affect class time.”

— Dusty Huff, Network Administrator, Alfred and Adele Davis Academy

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Customer Name: Alfred and Adele Davis Academy

Industry: K8 Education

Location: Atlanta, Georgia

Web Site: www.davisacademy.org

Number of Employees: 120 employees; 680 students

CHALLENGE:

- Protect students by filtering content
- Avoid system down time that would highly impact class time
- Enforce security policies that balance the need to be careful with the need to maximize learning

SOLUTION:

- Switch to Trend Micro from another leading security vendor
- Combine Trend Micro™ Enterprise Security solutions for endpoint, messaging, and gateway protection

BUSINESS RESULTS:

- Built-in protection at multiple points in the network
- Multilayered protection, with double protection at strategic points
- Easy to manage centrally

Challenge

The Children’s Internet Protection Act and a host of other state and federal regulations continually challenge U.S. educators to raise the level of security on the systems and networks that are integral to current curricula.

At Alfred and Adele Davis Academy, a new network administrator pointed out several problems with the previous security solutions before the end of his first year. “I strongly recommended that we get rid of the in-place security solutions,” said Dusty Huff, network administrator at Davis Academy. “Although security was based on products from one of the top three security vendors, too many email-borne threats were getting through and we didn’t have an http scanner at all. There were many problems with downloads and unsafe web content. Between Trojans and other malware, we were spending a lot of time cleaning threats off of computers.”

Solution

The administrator convinced management to go with solutions from a vendor with a proven track record for blocking threats: Trend Micro. Huff said, “Before coming to The Davis Academy, I had more than 10 years of experience with Trend Micro Enterprise Security. I knew it was a good solution. For my previous company—a consulting firm—Trend Micro was all we ever recommended.”

The tightly integrated Trend Micro Enterprise Security offering of content security products, services, and solutions is powered by the Trend Micro™ Smart Protection Network™ infrastructure. Together they deliver maximum protection from emerging threats while minimizing the cost and complexity of security management.

Multilayered Protection with Less Complexity

To stop threats as quickly as possible, The Davis Academy began its switch to Trend Micro by first deploying the company’s gateway security solutions: Trend Micro™ InterScan™ Messaging Security Virtual Appliance and Trend Micro InterScan Web Security Virtual Appliance. This was a relatively easy change and made an immediate difference. Then they replaced the previous vendor’s endpoint security solution with Trend Micro™ Enterprise Security for Endpoints, which further improved protection while reducing the overhead on the endpoint systems.

“Next we added Trend Micro™ ScanMail™ Suite for Microsoft® Exchange,” said Huff. “Combined with the gateway messaging solution, this gave us double protection against email threats. Smart Protection Network adds yet another layer of protection in the cloud with reputation checks, which results in very proactive protection. The majority of threats are blocked before they even get to us.”

Emphasizing Web Security

Since protecting the school’s 680 students is a top priority, The Davis Academy requires web content filtering capabilities. “We wanted to be able to filter, but not block all web activity,” said Huff. “We have to find the right balance between too strict and too lenient, when it comes to letting students access websites. Trend Micro InterScan Web Security Virtual Appliance gives us the control we need, and the latest release provides enhancements like the definition of custom categories that are particularly valuable to educators. We love the new version of InterScan Web Security.”

The virtual appliance form factor has also been a plus for the school. “The virtualized solution lets us avoid the cost of a dedicated physical server for gateway security, and aligns security with our virtualization initiative,” said Huff.

“InterScan Web Security Virtual Appliance lets me define custom categories so that I can restrict students from inappropriate sites while giving teachers access to sites like youtube.com. This is a major advancement. Besides the flexibility of these new features, performance has also been enhanced with the introduction of content caching. Websites pop up much faster and caching also cuts down on bandwidth utilization.”

Results

“Since switching to Trend Micro, we’ve had no problems with security,” said Huff. “Everything runs smoothly. We spot-check everything, and pay attention to the overall threat activity in terms of what is being blocked, but all of the Trend Micro solutions pretty much run themselves. The security you choose really does matter.”

Spam is no longer a problem at The Davis Academy, with Trend Micro messaging security solutions filtering spam at the gateway as well as at the email server. “Even with a firewall that filters spam, a lot of spam still reaches the gateway. We are very happy that the InterScan Messaging Security Virtual Appliance is so effective at blocking spam since almost half of the email traffic that gets past the firewall and reaches the gateway can be spam. Plus, we have the internal email filtering capabilities of ScanMail, which provide an extra layer of spam detection at the mail server. So spam just doesn’t get through. I don’t get *any* spam and it is very rare for anyone here to see any spam at all.”

The latest features, available with the new release of InterScan Web Security Virtual Appliance, help The Davis Academy continue to strengthen security while maintaining a rich learning environment. “We now have fine-grained control—which helps us better implement our internal policies for protecting students and minimize the risk of disruptions that can affect class time,” said Huff. “I appreciate being able to participate in Trend Micro beta testing to get early notice of new features like this. They help us keep up with the latest trends and keep our security solution leading edge and working well.”

“We are very happy that the InterScan Messaging Security Virtual Appliance is so effective at blocking spam ... spam just doesn’t get through. I don’t get any spam and it is very rare for anyone here to see any spam at all.”

— Dusty Huff, Network Administrator, Alfred and Adele Davis Academy

DEPLOYMENT ENVIRONMENT

- 1 site
- 300 PCs and Macs shared by 800 users (staff and students)
- 14 servers
- Trend Micro Enterprise Security for Endpoints
- Trend Micro ScanMail Suite for Microsoft Exchange
- Trend Micro InterScan Messaging Security Virtual Appliance
- Trend Micro InterScan Web Security Virtual Appliance
- VMware virtual machines

Company Profile

The Davis Academy, validated by triple accreditation (SACS, SAIS and GAC), provides students with an unparalleled program that blends exceptional academics with Jewish values and traditions. The school now serves children as young as four years old with an innovative program called Mechina: Kindergarten Prep. Davis Academy students are accepted into Atlanta’s finest private and public high schools and excel in universities throughout the country.

Trend Micro Security

- **Trend Micro Enterprise Security for Endpoints**
<http://us.trendmicro.com/us/products/enterprise/security-for-endpoints/index.html>
- **Trend Micro ScanMail for Microsoft Exchange**
<http://us.trendmicro.com/us/products/enterprise/scanmail-for-microsoft-exchange/index.html>
- **Trend Micro InterScan Messaging Security Virtual Appliance**
<http://us.trendmicro.com/us/products/enterprise/inter-scan-messaging-security-virtual-appliance/index.html>
- **Trend Micro InterScan Web Security Virtual Appliance**
<http://us.trendmicro.com/us/products/enterprise/inter-scan-web-security-virtual-appliance/index.html>

Trend Micro Enabling Technology

- **Trend Micro Smart Protection Network**
<http://us.trendmicro.com/us/trendwatch/core-technologies/smart-protection-network/>



© 2010 Trend Micro Incorporated. All rights reserved. All Trend Micro company, product and service names and slogans are trademarks or registered trademarks of Trend Micro Incorporated. Other names and marks are the property of their respective owners.
SS06DAVISIMSVA101020US
www.trendmicro.com