

Large Georgia School District Switches to Trend Micro to Stop Problems with Viruses and Spyware

Responsible for keeping network and Internet connectivity available to more than 30,000 students, faculty, and staff, the IT team for Houston County Schools demands highly effective security solutions that give them the best value in terms of maximized protection and operating costs that stay within the budget.

AN ESCALATING BATTLE TO PROTECT THE K-12 NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE

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— **Wallace E. Reeves,**
Executive Director, IT
Houston County Schools,
Perry, Georgia

Security has always been a priority for the IT team at Houston County School District in central Georgia. A few years ago, the school system was using a Symantec solution, but viruses and other attacks were breaking through the defenses. Combined with escalating renewal costs, the IT administrators decided to evaluate all the market offerings and find a more effective, affordable security platform.

In addition to staying within budget, the requirements for a new solution included a multi-layered approach. A firewall and a Barracuda appliance were already deployed, and the IT team wanted to preserve those investments. An intrusion prevention system (IPS) was also configured as part of the core network.



The main needs focused on protection for desktops and servers, to guard against email, Web, and blended threats such as viruses, Trojans, worms, hackers, and other malware. Because of the escalating incidence of spyware attacks, IT also evaluated anti-spyware technology from each of the top vendors.

CHOOSING TREND MICRO

After the evaluation, Houston County selected Trend Micro solutions. “We compared all the features from the major security vendors, and we found that Trend Micro products give us the most functionality for the most attractive price,” said Wallace Reeves, executive director of IT for Houston County Schools. “Trend Micro could give us a platform that we could add onto as needed, and we switched over for less than the renewal fees for our previous Symantec solutions.”

KEY BENEFITS

- **Tightened Security.** Layered mail server and endpoint protection has eliminated major malware incidents.
- **User Transparency.** The move to Trend Micro had no impact on the students and staff.
- **Easier Management.** IT spends less time overseeing the security for 10,000 desktops and servers.
- **Personal Service.** Fast response from the account team ensures maximum value from security investments.

The school district started with Trend Micro™ OfficeScan™ Client/Server Edition to protect desktops and network servers. They also deployed Trend Micro™ ScanMail™ for Microsoft™ Exchange to secure their mail servers. The combination has been extremely effective—with no major virus infections since the switch to Trend Micro three years ago. “The move to Trend Micro has been very successful,” said Reeves. “If anything ever makes it onto our network, Trend Micro solutions immediately find it and kill it or quarantine it. Before, a lot of stuff made it through Symantec—the results speak for themselves!”

BETTER FOR IT, STAFF, AND STUDENTS

“We’ve found that Trend Micro is one of the easiest solutions to deploy,” explained Paul Iannuzzi, director of network operations for the district. “And today, we have greatly improved manageability. Four people in my group have to manage 10,000 workstations plus 60 servers—so efficiency is a high priority for us, and Trend Micro really meets our needs in this area.

“For the end users, the IT group must always strive for solutions that can remain invisible to staff and students—allowing them to stay focused on learning activities. Dealing with user complaints can also quickly consume IT resources. When first deploying Trend Micro solutions, and recently when the team started deploying upgrades to OfficeScan release 8.0, the end users were totally unaware of any change except that they have not suffered any attacks since the change.

The enhanced spyware protection and integrated Web Reputation technology in the latest release of OfficeScan have also made it easier for IT to protect the staff and students from Web-based attacks that are on the rise. Today’s schools benefit from many online tools and resources, but this requires increased security to ensure that Web activities do not introduce vulnerabilities into the network. The integrated OfficeScan capabilities help the district prove compliance with government regulations such as the Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) and Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA), and ultimately protect students from inappropriate Web content.

MAXIMIZING THE VALUE OF SECURITY INVESTMENTS

“Excellent customer service is the norm from our Trend Micro account team,” said Reeves. “Whenever we contact Trend Micro, we quickly get the help we need. All of Trend Micro stands behind the products, and helps us get the most value out of the investments we make in security.”

CORPORATE PROFILE

Houston County Schools Perry, Georgia

Houston County School District serves a population that has grown from 105,808 in 1998 to a current population of 126,032. Eighteen public schools (K–12) have been recognized as Georgia Schools of Excellence and three schools have been named National Blue Ribbon Schools. For the fourth straight year, Houston County Board of Education has been recognized as a National Top 10 Digital School Board, and this year, the Center for Digital Education and National School Boards Association awarded the district 1st place in the large systems category.

- **Industry/Vertical** Education (K–12)
- **Employees** 5,000
(26,000 students)
- **Infrastructure** 37 sites;
10,000 desktops,
60 servers
- www.hcbe.net

TREND MICRO PRODUCTS

- **Trend Micro OfficeScan Client Server Edition**
<http://us.trendmicro.com/us/products/enterprise/officescan-client-server-edition/index.html>
- **Trend Micro ScanMail for Microsoft Exchange**
<http://us.trendmicro.com/us/products/enterprise/scanmail-for-microsoft-exchange/index.html>



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