STONYHURST COLLEGE ENTRUSTS SONICWALL TO SAFEGUARD ITS NETWORK

Online reporting and monitoring was a key to the college

Business need

Stonyhurst needed a complete refresh of its aging IT infrastructure, as it no longer had the capacity to meet its needs.

Solution

The SonicWall SuperMassive 9200 and Comprehensive Gateway Security Suite (CGSS), plus FastVue reporting software provided a comprehensive solution to secure the college's network and easily monitor different levels of usage.

Benefits

- Easy to setup, configure and manage different levels of security

- Faster WAN connection and high availability for increased productivity

- Far deeper level of security to safeguard data at all times

- Easy to monitor users' activity around the clock

Solutions at a glance

- Next Generation Firewalls

- Security Services

"The SonicWall firewall meets all our needs. It is stable and keeps our network secure. We now spend far less time interrogating the system. The SonicWall software pushes the data to you with hardly any intervention,"

PAUL WILMORE, DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL SERVICES AT STONYHURST COLLEGE

STONYHURST

CUSTOMER PROFILE

Company	Stonyhurst College
Industry	Education
Country	UK
Employees	300
Students	750
Website	www.stonyhurst.ac.uk

Stonyhurst College has a distinguished history as one of Britain's leading independent Catholic boarding schools.

The College is a co-educational Catholic school, faithful to the teachings of the Church and the educational principles of the Society of Jesus and was originally founded in 1593 in St Omer in the Spanish Netherlands. It is now located in Lancashire in beautiful Grade I listed buildings, which are steeped in history. The Stonyhurst estate provides a magical setting for students from the age of 3 up to sixth form to receive a first class education that equips them for life in the 21st century.

IT plays an important role at Stonyhurst

The college is heavily reliant upon its network infrastructure. The nursery classrooms embrace touch screen technology and this continues through to the sixth form. It is also especially important for students who board at Stonyhurst, as they need to stay in close contact with their families around the world. The boarders do this via FaceTime and Skype and they also enjoy recreational time gaming and watching films on Netflix. The college takes its role in safeguarding its students very seriously and closely monitors their extra-curricular activities to ensure the internet is being used in the right way and not having a detrimental effect on school work.

The college has a single network that spans both the school sites, which are situated half a mile apart. Stonyhurst's previous system was struggling to cope with the increased volume of traffic and was often unreliable. The IT team at Stonyhurst decided that a complete review of its network and security systems was needed and consulted with its long-term IT provider, Nviron.

After a full evaluation of the network infrastructure and the college's online monitoring and reporting needs, Nviron recommended a SonicWall SuperMassive 9200 Next Generation Firewall and SonicWall CGSS with FastVue Reporter for SonicWall software.

Andy Carty, Head of Public Sector Sales at Nviron, explained, "We were confident that the SonicWall solution would work seamlessly with the Dell Clearpass wireless and network infrastructure and take care of all the radius authentication of the wireless devices. The SonicWall firewall provides deep levels of security and is extremely easy to set up, allowing you to configure different sets of policies for different educational and recreational groups."

Seamless installation and integration

The installation was carried out during the summer holiday period and took just five days to set up the new firewall and integrate it fully with the Stonyhurst network. The content filtering element was configured to be age appropriate in order to ensure compliance and the reporting was setup to monitor and highlight unusual activity.

"The technical support received via Nviron and SonicWall during the implementation period and beyond has been exemplary and any questions and challenges were dealt with immediately. We really couldn't ask for more," said Paul Wilmore, Director of Technical Services, Stonyhurst College.

Products & Services

Hardware

SonicWall SuperMassive 9200 Next Generation Firewall

Software

SonicWall Comprehensive Gateway Security Suite

SONICWALL®

Customised content filtering

The college is now able to quickly and easily customise content filtering lists for different age groups at different times during the day, which enables the IT department at the College to generate regular reports in the form of emails that automatically highlight unusual activity.

If a student accesses a site categorised as unsuitable, the software immediately generates an alert. The administrator can then request a breakdown of the users browsing history to see exactly what the student has been doing online.

SonicWall also allows you to view activity in terms of productivity. This is especially useful as it gives the College a complete picture of when the students are going online and what sites they are accessing, which if necessary, enables the College to quickly put interventions in place to ensure the students are on task.

"The SonicWall firewall meets all our needs. It is stable and keeps our network secure. We now spend far less time interrogating the system. The SonicWall software pushes the data to you with hardly any intervention," commented Paul Wilmore, Director of Technical Services at Stonyhurst College.

Comprehensive all-in-one security solution

The SonicWall CGSS provides the school with an integrated package of security services designed to block cyber attacks and secures its network at the gateway against threats such as intrusions, viruses, spyware, worms, Trojans, adware, keyloggers, malicious mobile code (MMC) and other dangerous applications, for total protection in a convenient, affordable subscription-based service. CGSS also helps administrators supervise and manage applications with granular control, enabling them to classify and enforce specific policies.

The Fastvue Reporting for SonicWall is then able to intelligently interpret SonicWall log files and extract detailed user activity on the web, during any particular timeframe. This produces defined reports that can be sent to safeguarding officers in real-time or on a schedule. SonicWall's Content Filtering Service (CFS) 4.0 can be mapped to report around the government KCSiE guidelines, which address safety and security concerns. CFS has controls to enforce internet use policies by blocking access to harmful and inappropriate web content.

KCSiE Compliance

The KCSiE guidance includes the 'Prevent Duty', which evolved from the Counter-Terrorism & Security Act in 2015 and sets out the legal duties schools must follow in order to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people under the age of 18 in schools and colleges. This means that schools must deploy appropriate filtering and monitoring tools that include the police-assessed lists of unlawful terrorist content, produced on behalf of the home office by the Counter-Terrorism Internet Referral Unit (CTIRU). It also includes the Child Abuse Image Content (CAIC) lists supplied and maintained by the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) to safeguard children against accessing unsuitable images on the internet. Under these new regulations, schools are expected to provide detailed reports on all internet usage during any given timeframe.

"Our operating systems were inspected by an Independent School Inspectorate six months after implementation and they were completely blown away by the reporting and data management in place and said that the content filtering was second to none, incorporating all the lists required to comply with the Governments KCSiE guidance."

PAUL WILMORE, DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL SERVICES, STONYHURST COLLEGE

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