

School District Switches to Trend Micro™ Enterprise Security

Camden County Schools virtualize gateway security, increase spam and spyware protection, and reduce the impact on users.

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— Jeff Kelley, Director of Information Systems, Camden County Schools

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Customer Name: Camden County Schools

Industry: K-12 Education

Location: Camden County, Georgia

Web Site: www.camden.k12.ga.us

Number of Employees: 1,500

CHALLENGE:

- Protect the learning environment for K-12 students
- Reduce spam and other threats to faculty and staff productivity
- Manage security with a small IT staff

SOLUTION:

- Switch to Trend Micro Enterprise Security including integrated endpoint, mail server, and gateway solutions
- Introduce virtual appliance version of gateway security solution for improved reliability and lowered cost

BUSINESS RESULTS:

- Maximized protection, with improved spyware detection
- Spam filtering, which deletes up to 99% of the overall email traffic before it reaches the schools
- Minimized complexity, with in-the-cloud email sender reputation checking and VMware Ready virtual appliance deployment
- Fewer user complaints about security consuming desktop computer resources

Challenge

Camden County Schools provide students with information technology that increases learning and achievement while simultaneously driving up administrative efficiencies and effectiveness. Like many K-12 education systems, however, Camden County must accomplish its education goals for a large number of students with a small IT staff—compared to most private corporations.

“Here, our IT resources are nowhere near the industry standards based on the ratio of technicians to computers,” explained Jeff Kelley, Director of Information Systems at Camden County Schools. “We have two people that take care of a network that supports almost 10-thousand students and 1500 employees. And spam, viruses, and Trojans—any threat you can think of—are increasing exponentially and changing daily. As a public entity, we have to be alert and always evaluating our technology options.”

Last year, when the schools’ security solutions were up for renewal, IT carried out a request for bids. The previous vendor’s solutions were not able to keep up with the volume of spam and spyware and were bogging down the email server. Users often complained about delayed email as well as the heavy processor load imposed by security scans on individual desktops and laptops. Alternative solutions were demonstrated and compared for overall protection and cost effectiveness.

Solution

Product investigations and comparisons showed that Trend Micro could best meet the needs of the county schools. IT switched to a Trend Micro™ Enterprise Security solution that includes:

- Endpoint protection (Trend Micro™ Enterprise Security for Endpoints, including Trend Micro™ OfficeScan™) for all desktops, laptops, and file servers;
- Email server security (Trend Micro™ ScanMail™ for Exchange) on the email server; and
- Email gateway filtering (Trend Micro™ InterScan™ Messaging Security Virtual Appliance) to block as much as possible at the network edge before it can enter and impact the school’s network.

The district’s tightly integrated multilayered security solution is powered by the Trend Micro™ Smart Protection Network™ infrastructure. The cloud-client architecture of the Smart Protection Network enables Trend Micro Enterprise Security products to deliver maximum protection from emerging threats while minimizing the cost and complexity of security management.

The new gateway solution was the first to be deployed. “The Trend Micro InterScan Messaging Security Virtual Appliance has made a huge difference on the administrative side,” said John Bailey, the Network Engineer for Camden County Schools. “Our previous vendor’s solution was very resource intensive, and it was always so occupied processing traffic that we couldn’t even carry out administrative tasks on it. The Trend Micro solution is much more resource efficient and the virtual appliance configuration has been very cost-effective and reliable for us.”

The Trend Micro virtual appliance eliminates the need for an additional Windows server, along with the associated risks of viruses and hacking. Besides simplifying administration, the gateway solution has also solved the school district’s escalating spam problem by introducing real-time analysis of sender reputation with Smart Protection Network technology. “InterScan Messaging Security Virtual Appliance stops spam at the gateway, stripping away what adds up to 98-99% of the incoming email,” said Kelley. “Our previous solution didn’t block nearly as much spam. When we briefed senior managers and the superintendent on how much is now being blocked by the Trend Micro solution, they were somewhat astonished. The amount of spam caught is amazing.”

ScanMail for Exchange adds another layer of protection right at the mail server, and each computer on the network is also protected with Trend Micro endpoint security. Switching the desktops, laptops, and file servers to OfficeScan went very smoothly. “This endpoint security solution did a good job of removing our previous product and pushing out the new software—a better job than other solutions we have tried,” said Bailey. “It went very well.”

Results

Switching to Trend Micro Enterprise Security has eliminated many user complaints about security software consuming too much processor power on desktops and laptops. The team at Camden County Schools recently updated to the latest version of Enterprise Security for Endpoints. “I’m in the process of introducing Smart Scan for all of our clients,” said John Trower, Network Administrator for the county schools. “With this new feature, the latest version of OfficeScan does an even better job of minimizing the security footprint on our systems. I also appreciate that the new release detects even more spyware and we take advantage of the Web Reputation feature to keep a lot of threats out of our network.”

“Keeping up to date with security is always a challenge,” said Kelley. “I’m constantly reviewing industry sources of information, and we see that Trend Micro is doing a good job of keeping up with threats. They also coexist very well with all of our legacy education software and help us protect all of our computers including the older hardware. This is important since we have to keep hardware longer with today’s budget restrictions.”

DEPLOYMENT ENVIRONMENT

- 13 campuses
- Approximately 4000 PCs (desktops and laptops)
- 30 servers
- Trend Micro Enterprise Security for Endpoints, Release 10
- Trend Micro ScanMail for Exchange, Release 8
- Trend Micro InterScan Messaging Security Virtual Appliance, Release 7
- VMware ESX™ Server, HA
- HP blade hardware
- HP EVA Storage Area Network solution

Company Profile

The administration and faculty in the Camden County School System strive to graduate students that are prepared to achieve lifelong goals and to contribute to society. All of the county’s schools are 100% compliant with Georgia Public School Standards, and are fully accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). The district has been named a SACS “Super District” for the last three years, and its pre-kindergarten program has been awarded “Accreditation with Quality” by the Georgia Accrediting Commission.

Trend Micro Enterprise Security

- **Trend Micro Enterprise Security**
<http://us.trendmicro.com/us/home/enterprise/>
- **Trend Micro Smart Protection Network**
<http://www.smartprotectionnetwork.com>
- **Enterprise Security for Endpoints**
<http://us.trendmicro.com/us/products/enterprise/security-for-endpoints/index.html>
- **ScanMail for Exchange**
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- **InterScan Messaging Security Virtual Appliance**
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