

Securing the Technology that Advances K12 Education

Schools rely on Trend Micro™ Smart Protection Network™ infrastructure to secure their journey to the cloud.

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— Mark A. Williams, Network Manager, Walled Lake Consolidated School District

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Customer Name: Walled Lake Consolidated School District

Industry: K12 Education

Location: Walled Lake, Michigan

Web Site: www.wlcsd.org

Number of Employees: 2,000

CHALLENGE:

- Give students the benefits of technology without exposing them to Internet threats
- Avoid learning disruptions that result from infections
- With reduced budgets and staff, manage security solutions and maximize the value they deliver to the students and staff
- Take advantage of cloud computing without compromising security

SOLUTION:

- Switch to Trend Micro™ Enterprise Security for Endpoints and Mail Servers
- Enable Trend Micro Smart Protection Network reputation technologies

BUSINESS RESULTS:

- Significantly reduced infection rates
 - Better endpoint system performance
 - IT staff time savings, with fewer systems requiring cleaning
 - More bandwidth-efficient update process, and off-network updates for mobile users
 - Increased confidence to let students use the web and public cloud resources
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Challenge

During the last decade, when school districts across the country have faced record-level budget cuts, Walled Lake Consolidated School District has faced its share of challenges. However, the district has continued to earn accolades for quality of instruction and innovative application of technology, including its high schools being included in Newsweek’s list of most desirable schools.

Technology, in fact, has become an essential part of the District’s foundations. School representatives invest the time required to keep up with trends, including attending the annual “Spice It Up” technology conference, to gain ideas for cost-effectively augmenting classroom experiences.

Technology-based systems have been institutionalized in all of the Walled Lake Schools. For example, Family Access, the District’s parent-school communication tool facilitates collaboration between parents and teachers, and Mastery Manager®, a data analysis program, saves time and improves productivity for staff.

The increasing reliance on Internet technology has introduced a new challenge: blocking email and web threats. Keeping up with the increasing numbers and types of viruses, malware, and cybercrime activities became a potentially costly requirement for maintaining and evolving security for the District’s and student’s computers.

Solution

Last year, to give students a safe environment for taking advantage of the District’s technology, Walled Lake Consolidated Schools introduced Trend Micro Enterprise Security for Endpoints and Mail Servers.

Powered by the Trend Micro Smart Protection Network, the new security solution delivers advanced protection from the cloud. Smart Protection Network includes email, web, and file reputation information that is correlated to block threats in real time, before they reach an organization’s networks and computers.

“So much of our curriculum is wrapped up in technology,” explained Mark Williams, network manager for Walled Lake Consolidated School District. “If viruses or malware impact a computer, students can’t absorb the topic or get their work done. Trend Micro Enterprise Security gives us extremely comprehensive endpoint and mail security—it’s a very straightforward solution and we don’t have to do much to maintain the solution.”

“Smart Protection Network was one of the things we really liked when we first looked at Trend Micro Enterprise Security. It differentiates Trend Micro, with a very dynamic, in-the-cloud layer of protection. In terms of technology, Smart Protection Network shows that Trend Micro is absolutely going in the right direction.”

The Smart Protection Network correlates global threat intelligence to reduce reliance on time-consuming signature downloads and boost overall protection from web, email, and file threats.

“More and more of what we are doing involves public cloud resources,” said Williams. “Right now, we are piloting a program to give students access to Google apps for education. These are just some of the free resources in the cloud that are available to schools.

“Other security vendors don’t get it yet. Trend Micro with Smart Protection Network is exactly what is needed for the web world that we have to live in. Trend Micro has allowed everyone to contribute threat information to the Smart Protection Network global repositories. I really like that concept. It gives us confidence to move forward with web and cloud-based innovations for the classroom.”

Results

Since switching to Trend Micro Enterprise Security for Endpoints and Mail Servers, Walled Lake Consolidated School District has enjoyed fewer infections. “It is a fact that Smart Protection Network has improved our protection,” said Williams. “It prevents infections significantly better than our previous security solution.

“From a user standpoint, computers now run faster with Trend Micro Enterprise Security. With in-the-cloud protection, the endpoints are less impacted by security. Performance has been remarkable—you can’t even tell that Trend Micro software is running, whereas the other vendor’s solution used to bring computers to a crawl during scans and updates.”

Fewer infections mean fewer disruptions for students and saved time for IT. Smart Protection Network has also helped the District introduce a more intelligent update process, to keep every computer up to date even when away from campus.

“Smart Protection servers let us perform web and file reputation queries directly to these local servers, without going to the public cloud,” said Williams. “This saves network bandwidth and reduces our need for local signatures. For laptops that students or staff take off campus, queries are direct to Trend Micro. This reduces the chances of infections being brought back on campus.”

“Smart Protection Network has meant increased protection, reduced reliance on endpoint signatures, and excellent endpoint performance for us—it has made it very easy for us to justify the switch to Trend Micro. We have really had no problems whatsoever with the introduction of Enterprise Security for Endpoints and Mail Servers. We are very happy with Trend Micro.”

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DEPLOYMENT ENVIRONMENT

Deployment Environment

21 schools and 2 education centers

7,000 PCs including student-owned laptops

60 servers

Trend Micro Enterprise Security for Endpoints and Mail Servers

Company Profile

Significant gains in student achievement, continued implementation of state-of-the-art technology, and staff commitment put the Walled Lake Consolidated School District in its leadership role in Oakland County and the state of Michigan. The district’s Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) and high school Michigan Merit Exam (MME) scores exceed state and county averages. Excellent levels of parent and community involvement make a difference in the Walled Lake Schools, and the PTSA Council annually hosts the largest Reflections program ever with record numbers of students participating and many students receiving state recognition.

Trend Micro Security

- **Trend Micro Enterprise Security for Endpoints and Mail Servers**
<http://us.trendmicro.com/us/products/enterprise/endpoints-and-mail-servers/>

Trend Micro Enabling Technology

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



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