

Grace Christian School Safe With SecurED

Grace Christian School, located at Bunbury in Western Australia, is a member of the Christian Schools Australia network. It provides a Christ-centred education to students from Kindergarten to Year 12. The school has a strong academic focus, while aiming to develop and nurture a Christian worldview. Grace has a progressive attitude towards IT deployment, but maintains strict policies on internet use and the security of students online is an absolute priority.

Grace Christian School is providing its 550 students and staff with a safe and secure IT environment with a SecurED solution from Netbox Blue. The solution features highly advanced Category Web Filtering and Zero Day Anonymous Proxy Prevention to ensure complete internet compliance. The solution delivers total protection against today's challenges as well as unique social networking safeguards that will continue to protect the school into the future.

"It's an excellent product," IT Manager, Garry Hewett says. "It has solved our IT issues and has a much more user-friendly interface than other products we looked at."

Prior to introducing the SecurED solution the school employed multiple devices to manage IT security. This was proving time consuming for staff. The school's traditional filtering technology was also unable to cope with anonymous proxies and the growing number of web sites (including Facebook, Twitter and Gmail) that had introduced encrypted (i.e. HTTPS) versions of their sites to help users get around filters.

"HTTPS packet inspection was difficult and anonymous proxies were becoming a real issue for us," Mr Hewett says.

The school needed to replace several outdated devices. It decided to consolidate its solutions to provide complete security against the current threats as well as the challenges that the school might face in the future with laptops, MacBooks and social media. The school was also looking for a solution that would be cost effective and easy to use and manage.

Solution

Grace Christian School decided to trial Netbox Blue's SecurED solution because it was an all-in-one solution with advanced features that promised to efficiently deal with anonymous proxies and encrypted websites and was able to filter access to social networking sites.

"It covered our needs and came with good product reviews and recommendations," Mr Hewett says.



The SecurED solution delivers a complete suite of security and management features that include a firewall, email and URL filtering, reporting, as well as social network monitoring and controls. The solution has the added bonus of LAN segregation. Students and teachers are effectively on separate networks for external access bringing massive security and management advantages. It is also planned for staff members to have secure access to the school's resources while outside the network with an easy-to-use VPN capability.

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School Benefits:

- An all-in-one, completely self managed solution
- A complete suite of security and management features
- Total control over Social Media, including Facebook, Twitter and Gmail



“The solution appears to be very stable with excellent reporting of the state of the interfaces,” Mr Hewett says. “We never knew our ADSL fluctuated so much before the Netbox!”

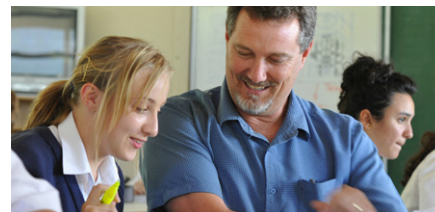
The Category Web Filtering is highly advanced and customized for schools to give real time updates of web site categorization. With 200 million users globally, the service is able to categorize web sites faster than any other provider.

The Zero Day Anonymous Proxy Prevention (ZDAPP) adds another layer of protection for users. The unique SecurED technology provides real-time protection against students using the extremely common technique of accessing anonymous proxies (that typically are not blocked by traditional filters as they change all the time) to jump to sites that are normally blocked. ZDAPP delivers global analysis and categorization of new sites. This along with HTTPS Deep Packet Inspection means students can be properly and predictably managed on the internet.

“The filtering products are quite sophisticated,” Mr Hewett says. “And the solution is relatively easy to learn and use.”

Result

Grace Christian School now has a consolidated internet and email security and management solution that covers all of their current needs and is able to grow with the school as it moves towards a 1:1 student to laptop ratio. The SecurED solution provides total control over the network at school. It can also deliver complete control over social networking with SafeChat if the school decides to make use of this growing area of the internet.



“The product does everything we expected of it,” Mr Hewett says. “The Netbox Blue staff are helpful and the solution is excellent.”

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Technical Benefits:

- Highly advanced Category Web Filtering and Zero Day Anonymous Proxy Prevention
- LAN segregation
- Easy-to-use VPN capability
- HTTPS Deep Packet Inspection

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Netbox Blue is a leading provider of internet and email security, filtering and management solutions. Netbox Blue provides schools and organisations with the tools to protect their network from internal and external threats, control data leakage and ensure staff and students use the internet productively. The company offers a broad portfolio of products and services including Unified Threat Management appliances, email filtering appliances, soft appliances (for virtual environments) and OEM-ready solutions. The company was established in 1999, is privately held and is based in Australia. Netbox Blue has a presence in over 19 countries and has partnerships and distribution agreements with some of the world's largest IT providers.