

Location:

Palm Springs, CA

Industry:

Education

Solution:

iPrism Web Filter

Overview

William Carr, IT director for the Palm Springs Unified School District, is responsible for a network of over 118 servers and 5,850 computers at 24 schools. He oversees a department of 19 information technology (IT) professionals tasked with keeping the school district's networks and workstations running smoothly. Like all districts, Palm Springs understands how vital the Internet is to education research and connectivity among students, teachers and administrators. William was not satisfied with the Webfiltering software solution he inherited when he came to Palm Springs.

William was faced with the task of assuring the Internet was accessible to staff and students while also protecting them and his networks from potential harm. He also had regulatory requirements with which to comply. "These are issues that affect how the school qualifies for funding under the Child Internet Protection Act (CIPA), so it was very important to everyone that we maintain our Web access but keep out harmful sites," he explained.

Because William was so busy overseeing the operations of a quickly expanding school district, he needed an Internet filtering solution that would be easy to use, require little, if any, maintenance and be scalable to grow. Additionally, Palm Springs faced the same financial concerns as other districts, finding a product that would fit within a tight budget.

Challenge

After working for with the software solution implemented by his predecessor, William realized he needed a different product that wouldn't require a lot of maintenance as he didn't have the resources to provide that level of attention. Furthermore, because the school district's Internet service had to accommodate a variety of audiences with different restriction levels, he needed the flexibility to adjust access for teachers vs. students, high school vs. elementary age students and so forth. Palm Springs also wanted to be able to qualify for vital E-RATE funds that depended on CIPA compliance, so it needed a solution that could provide a broad range of reports easily and efficiently.

Solution

Because Palm Springs needed a solution that would handle Web filtering for the entire district, William chose St. Bernard's iPrism M3100 dedicated Internet-filtering appliance. With its powerful dual processors and redundancy features, he knew it could handle his current needs and be able to scale with the growing institution in the future.

William noted an immediate gain in filtering speed and accuracy due to iPrism's exclusive kernel-level filtering that delivers the speed of pass-by with the accuracy of pass-through technology, but with no latency. And because he was able to customize iPrism to block high-bandwidth consumption sites, such as those with MP3 and video files, William could minimize the drain on his network, which improved overall performance.

iPrism is also able to give William and his staff access to a broad range of reports, providing them the flexibility to run them on Internet activity across the entire network and quickly drill-down to individual users. With iPrism's real-time monitor, they have instant visibility into all Internet traffic.

The school district also realized benefits from iPrism's iGuard, the only 100% humanreviewed URL database in the industry. Using iGuard's 63 categories, he is able to customize filtering to suit all of the district's groups, including students, teachers and administrators.

"For ease-of-use, security and total ROI, I haven't found any solution superior to iPrism. I recommend iPrism to all of my colleagues"

William Carr

Director IT
Palm Springs Unified
School District

Result

Since deploying iPrism, William has seen a significant decrease in complaints from teachers about students wasting time on sites like MySpace or chatting with their friends on IM. "iPrism has brought a huge improvement in accountability across the board; teachers and administrators are very happy with the results," he says.

Another advantage of iPrism is the ease of complying with CIPA regulatory requirements. With iPrism on-box reporting, the necessary reports are obtained effortlessly whenever they are needed, and the school district has had no trouble qualifying for E-RATE funds.

With its prior Internet-filtering solution, the IT staff spent hours installing and configuring the software and using valuable server space to accommodate it. Additionally, when maintenance was needed or upgrades were released, more staff time was required to make sure the system was in working order. With iPrism, URL database updates and upgrades are sent to the appliance automatically, saving William and his staff countless hours they can devote to other IT projects. According to William, "iPrism started working as soon as I connected it to my network and it's worked great ever since. It's lifted a big burden from me and my staff compared with the previous solution we were using. Any issues I've run into have been easily solved using the iPrism Knowledgebase — which is a great resource."

The Palm Springs School District also reports that iPrism's low acquisition and renewal pricing coupled with virtually zero maintenance requirements has proven to be a good budget fit. William explained that iPrism's low TCO has given them a much better return-on-investment than other solutions they investigated, including the software solution that was in place when he came onboard.

About EdgeWave Inc™

EdgeWave Inc. (OTCBB/OTCQB: EWVE), develops and markets on demand, on-premises, and hybrid Secure Content Management (SCM) solutions to the mid-enterprise and service provider markets. The EdgeWave portfolio of web, email and data protection technologies delivers comprehensive secure content management with unrivalled ease of deployment and the lowest TCO on the market. The company's award winning iPrism Web Security and Email Security products are complemented by email archiving and data loss protection solutions, and can be delivered as hosted, on-premises, and hybrid services. With 6,500 customers and over 200 partners worldwide, EdgeWave strives to deliver simple, high performance solutions that offer excellent value.

Based in San Diego, California, EdgeWave markets its solutions through a network of value added resellers, ISPs and MSPs, distributors, system integrators, OEM partners and directly to end users. For more information about EdgeWave, visit www.edgewave.com

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