

Location:
Rochester, IL

Industry:
Education

Solution:
iPrism Web Filter

“The ease-of-use of the reporting features is great, and I know that I am going to get an accurate report. No one in our district ever disputes a report or log file from iPrism. They have seen over the years the high degree of accuracy the hardware is capable of demonstrating. We trust the device as much as first hand observation”

Tim Woodruff
Director
Technology Services
Rochester Community Unit
School District

Overview

The Rochester CUSD is a K-12 school district located near Springfield, IL and has 135 employees serving approximately 2400 students from Rochester and the surrounding communities. The district has two campuses, one with high school and junior high students; the other housing elementary and middle school students.

Tim Woodruff, the school district’s Director of Technology Services was tasked with providing an Internet filtering solution that would meet Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA) requirements so that Rochester CUSD schools could qualify for E-Rate funds. These are federal funds that schools can use to purchase technology-related equipment and services. Tim needed to make sure his district qualified, but he also wanted the Internet to be available as a study and research tool for students and faculty without having to worry about exposing students or his networks to Internet-based threats. Because the district had another solution already in place, Tim needed to be sure that implementing a new Internet filtering solution would be worth the cost and inconvenience of switching vendors.

Challenge

The Rochester School District had been dissatisfied with its previous Internet filtering solution for a number of reasons. Tim and his team had spent many hours trying to manipulate the product to achieve the level of performance they wanted, including using the vendor’s technical support service, which was an additional expense. The cost to the school district was mounting as technical support charges piled up. The final straw came when the previous vendor decided to bring its URL database in-house and abandoned the third-party service they had been using. As Tim explained, “They just didn’t have the staff or the knowledge to bring this off on their own. We stayed with them awhile, but quality started going downhill fast. That’s when I started shopping for a replacement.”

The main criteria Tim was looking for in a new filtering solution were:

- An easy-to-deploy solution with minimal maintenance requirements that would allow his staff to focus on other important tasks
- A high quality content-filtering list that would provide the accuracy needed to avoid false positives and negatives. Tim also wanted a URL database that he could depend on to be updated automatically and regularly
- Fair price-to-value structure with features useful to his district

Solution

After careful research, the district chose EdgeWave’s iPrism. Tim had evaluated iPrism and found it flawlessly met the criteria they had identified as critical factors in their selection. Tim identified significant results almost instantly with iPrism, “Right out of the box it performed as promised. The appliance was easy to configure, and we felt very comfortable working with it.”

As a dedicated, self-contained appliance, iPrism is easy to install, configure and administer, and does not require any additional hardware or software. In addition, iPrism requires virtually no maintenance — an important consideration for Rochester since the IT staff consists only of Tim and one network administrator. iPrism’s unparalleled accuracy and performance also provide a considerable advantage for the district. With its proprietary, kernel-level filtering technology, iPrism continuously protects against threats in HTTP, IM and P2P traffic, such as spyware, malware and phishing. The fact that it has its own hardened and optimized OS means that security and network interoperability are assured.

iPrism’s proprietary iGuard database also remedies the problem Rochester had been having with their prior solution. The 100% human-reviewed URL classification system employed by iGuard provides the most accurate database on the market and iPrism’s iGuard analyst team works around the clock classifying new sites to keep users protected from emerging threats. Tim is very impressed with the hourly security category updates and also likes the flexibility of being

iPrism Case Study

iPrism Benefits

- Protects students from inappropriate websites
- Protects your networks from spyware, malware and phishing
- Fulfills CIPA requirements for E-Rate funds
- Manages bandwidth usage
- Enhances student and staff productivity

able to filter by group or individual. Now all the district's users, from elementary school children to administrative staff, receive the appropriate access levels needed to make the Internet a valuable and relevant tool.

Because reporting is a critical component of CIPA compliance, iPrism's comprehensive on-box reporting is another attribute that makes Tim's life easier. "We use log reports and graphical records to keep track of network use and abuse, with all reports and records being filed in binders and forwarded to the proper management teams for action." In fact, Tim has even used the reporting feature to convince his superintendent to add more bandwidth capacity, which improved Internet performance throughout the district.

Paying for technical support had been an issue with the prior solution and Tim greatly appreciates iPrism's free technical support. The fact that the iPrism technical support team has regularly received approval ratings of 98% made him even happier with his choice.

Result

iPrism provides the Rochester School District with immediate, measurable results that Tim can report back to management. For instance, Tim estimates that iPrism's ease of use and zero maintenance is saving the school district \$5400 a year in staff time compared with their previous solution. He also found that iPrism's ability to help ensure that the Internet is utilized as an educational tool rather than a distraction, has added an additional 3600 hours of productive student time on school computers. Finally, and most importantly, deploying iPrism has allowed the district to qualify for E-Rate funds, which in 2006 amounted to almost \$17,000.

Tim shares a story about an E-Rate audit that highlights iPrism's superb performance. Auditors came to his district, with very little notice, to verify Rochester's CIPA compliance. During the entire audit, they were unable to breach iPrism's defense in any way. Tim talked later with one of the auditors, "His comment to me was that using the programming tricks they brought with them they had been able to compromise every other site (school) they had visited to date. Our district had been the only site where they had not been able to find a way around the content filtering system to get to a "bad web site". Our content filtering system, of course, was iPrism."

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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