

**Location:**

Poway, CA

**Industry:**

Education

**Solution:**

iPrism Web Filter

*"We needed a feature-packed Web filtering solution that was easy to manage and satisfied our price point and bandwidth concerns, while protecting our students," said Marc Ludwig, systems engineer at Poway USD. "St. Bernard's iPrism meets and exceeds these requirements. It allows us to authenticate users, run reports and gives staff members the freedom to adjust Internet access at their discretion. This greatly frees up time for our IT department and keeps our district in line with CIPA regulations."*

**Marc Ludwig**Systems Engineer  
Poway Unified  
School District

## Overview

Located in Southern California, Poway Unified School District (USD) serves the educational needs of 33,000 students in grades K-12. Marc Ludwig, systems engineer for the district, was tasked with replacing the school's Web filtering solution, as it struggled to meet the federal Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) compliance requirements. Poway needed a steadfast, hardware-based product that ensured students weren't able to turn off the proxy server on school workstations to access inappropriate material. Ludwig sought a dependable, user-friendly Web filtering solution that would comply with CIPA and satisfy price points.

The school district also began to notice that its curriculum required an increasing use of on-demand programs and applications. These online educational tools put a serious strain on network bandwidth, and the school believed this activity would eventually overload the network.

Poway USD needed a reliable Web filtering solution that was easy to manage and authenticated users, while protecting students.

## Challenge

Poway USD's objective as an educational institution is to provide a safe learning environment for students. The district previously utilized a software-based Web filtering solution that was unable to keep students from accessing inappropriate online content. Students frequently by-passed proxy servers to access unsafe Internet content, such as social networks and gambling sites. Poway then upgraded to an appliance-based product. The solution lacked important features, like user authentication, and was not easy to manage.

To add to the frustration, IT staff would spend up to six hours a week adjusting access to sites that teachers needed for particular lessons, projects or students, since the previous solution did not let staff unblock sites at their discretion. Faculty also frequently inquired about the online activity of certain students or machines, so Poway USD also required a reliable a solution that could provide comprehensive, detailed reports when necessary.

In addition, Poway USD was struggling to manage bandwidth needs required by the school's curriculum. The constant activity was causing the district to reach maximum available bandwidth during school hours, which created bottlenecks of traffic that hampered productivity among staff and students. To help address this issue, the district upgraded from a 45 Mbps connection to a 100 Mbps connection, allowing room for additional bandwidth growth. Because of the increased bandwidth capacity, Poway USD now required a Web filtering solution that would support its current and future bandwidth needs while maintaining CIPA compliance.

## Solution

Over the past decade, Poway USD has tried several other software and appliance-based Web filtering solutions. Before choosing iPrism from St. Bernard, Ludwig extensively researched the available options, but ultimately was drawn to St. Bernard's h-Series appliance because of its price point and important features, such as anti-virus.

Ludwig depends on the appliance-based h-Series to prevent students from accessing inappropriate online content, as access is protected by a single appliance without the need for client-based agents. St. Bernard's iPrism 100h Web Filter was also appealing because of its ability to manage the district's growing bandwidth requirements. The appliance was a onetime investment that will easily scale to the district's future bandwidth demands, and eliminate any network bottlenecks or disruption.

Finally, Poway USD also benefits from h-Series' powerful, on-box reporting capabilities. Ludwig can now run reports on certain machines or users, pull realtime data and trends, as well as investigate suspicious online activity to track down the person or persons behind it.

## 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

## Result

With the iPrism 100h Web Filter in place, students are unable to access inappropriate online content. The iPrism appliance ensures that students can't bypass the proxy like they could with a software-based solution.

The detailed reporting provided by the h-Series appliance has also alleviated an enormous burden from Ludwig's shoulders. The previous solution had required him to spend a considerable amount of time running usage reports, which was time that could have been directed on other critical tasks. Now, Ludwig can depend on iPrism's on-box reporting to gather real-time details on students' online behavior, allowing him more time to focus on critical issues.

iPrism also allows the faculty at Poway USD to change settings at their discretion, freeing IT administrators from the lengthy process of adjusting policy and online access on a situational basis. As a result, Ludwig has gained an additional six hours each week that was previously consumed by this task. Teachers can now easily unblock sites as needed in real-time, an activity that previously required 24 hours advance notice to be approved and configured by the IT staff.

Since deploying the iPrism 100h Web Filter, bandwidth issues have also disappeared. Ludwig no longer receives reports regarding bottlenecks of network traffic, and productivity across the staff and student populations are not subject to disruption.

Relying on the iPrism Web Filter ensures that Poway USD continues to meet CIPA requirements.

## 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](http://www.edgewave.com)

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