

School District Sees More Immediate Protection with Less Complexity Using Trend Micro™ Enterprise Security

With direct accountability to the public it serves, the South Washington County School District in Minnesota is continually evaluating technology and searching for cost-effective ways to safeguard the learning environment for its 16,000 students. Recent years have seen an explosion of spam and web threats, putting an emphasis on immediate and automatic security.

“Trend Micro is definitely moving in the right direction. We can't keep increasing the size of pattern files—our servers would soon be overwhelmed. Instead, we rely on the power of Trend Micro's cloud-client architecture to provide fast protection while also taking a load off our network. We see the results—with Trend Micro Enterprise Security, the speed is there. Reaction times are faster. We can tell that things are becoming more efficient.”

— Jeff Dietsche,
Manager of Systems
and Networks
South Washington County
Schools, Cottage Grove, MN

With more than 20 sites in the district, communications among schools and offices is just as important as the ability for students to draw from the wealth of information available on the web. But common sense—as well as federal law—dictates taking many precautions to keep inappropriate content out of the classroom. As a result, security has always been a priority for South Washington County School District. For almost a decade the IT team has partnered with Trend Micro to keep pace with the changing nature of threats on its network.



“Originally we chose Trend Micro for the centralized approach the solutions enabled—having a console and being able to upgrade clients automatically from a central server,” explained Jeff Dietsche, manager of systems and networks for the school district. “This centralization has become our theme and we've stayed with Trend Micro because we can see the results of their continuous innovations on our network. It's amazing how well Trend Micro™ Enterprise Security works for us.”

KEY BENEFITS

- **Integrated security solutions.** A small IT team can keep up with continually evolving threats.
- **Rapid discovery and blocking of threats.** Global threat intelligence accessed through in-the-cloud technologies provides unrivaled speed in threat protection.
- **Reduced costs.** A client-cloud architecture plus hosted security and simple administration reduce complexity and save time for IT.
- **Always up to date.** Correlated reputation databases provide immediate protection that is updated automatically—from the endpoint to the hosted service, defenses are kept current.

MULTILAYERED DEFENSE FOR IMMEDIATE PROTECTION

The district has seen first-hand the dramatic rise of web threats over recent years and recognizes that these threats require a strong defense. Dietsche said, “The advanced threat intelligence that feeds into Trend Micro Enterprise Security provides us with the best possible control of the content on our network.”

Today, the district uses Trend Micro™ NeatSuite™ Advanced, Trend Micro's comprehensive gateway-to-endpoint security suite. Among other components, NeatSuite Advanced gives them Trend Micro OfficeScan™ Client/Server Edition for endpoints, and messaging security provided by ScanMail™ Suite for Microsoft™ Exchange. Last year, when spam

skyrocketed out of control, they added another layer of protection with Trend Micro InterScan™ Messaging Hosted Security. The hosted solution blocks spam in the cloud, before it can impact the onsite email server, users, or the IT staff.

Recently, Trend Micro introduced Trend Micro™ Smart Protection Network, which powers all of its products and services. This new approach is based on a cloud-client architecture that correlates email, web, and file reputation databases to provide immediate protection against all elements of an attack. By housing this technology in the cloud and stopping threats at the source, a load is taken off the network. The District has experienced the advantage of this correlated threat information, resulting in more immediate protection from even the newest threats.

Spam continues to escalate, but with its hosted service the district does not see any of it. The email reputation database stops spam from known malicious senders and web reputation blocks spam with links to dangerous websites. And when either one of these elements gets a bad reputation, the reputation is extended to the other elements of the attack through correlated threat intelligence. “It’s fun to look at the console and check the spam levels,” said Dietsche. “Our total email volume has increased by 30% and is now more than 650,000 messages a day—about 640,000 of those messages are spam, but virtually none of it hits our inboxes. The Trend Micro service is now catching the last 2% to 3% (10,000+ spam messages) that used to get through. InterScan Messaging Hosted Security saves us network bandwidth, eliminates the burden on our email servers, and totally satisfies our users—the calls that came in to the Call Center during the first weeks of implementation were compliments from users who were thrilled with the results.”

REDUCING COMPLEXITY

With a limited staff of 13 technology specialists—including the director and purchasing manager—the district must select solutions that get the job done without requiring a lot of the team’s time. The integrated security from Trend Micro has proven to be a time-saver over the years, allowing the IT group the ease of working with a single vendor to manage multiple security capabilities. “The centralized management of Trend Micro Enterprise Security is exactly what we need,” said Dietsche. “I can literally check everything in one quick glance—a great time saver. Trend Micro really understands what we need to get our jobs done efficiently.”

CORPORATE PROFILE

South Washington County Schools Cottage Grove, Minnesota, USA

The suburban South Washington County School District 833 is located southeast of St. Paul, covering an area of 84 square miles. The population of the district is about 95,000, including about 16,400 students in the school district. The sixth largest district in Minnesota, South Washington County Schools strive to create a safe and inclusive climate for learning and to encourage effective communications with the community.

- **Industry/Vertical** Education (K-12)
- **Infrastructure** 22 sites;
4,000 desktops
- www.sowashco.k12.mn.us

Through the years, South Washington County School District has noticed how Trend Micro Enterprise Security continually makes it easier for IT to deploy and manage security.

“Today, I occasionally have to adjust a policy or make an exception for special situations, but I really don’t have to do much at all,” said Dietsche. “Email and web threats—especially spam—used to take up a huge amount of our time. By offering us hosted alternatives and the evolving in-the-cloud technologies of the Trend Micro Smart Protection Network, Trend Micro is definitely moving in the right direction. We can’t keep increasing the size of pattern files—our servers would soon be overwhelmed. Instead, we rely on the power of Trend Micro’s cloud-client architecture to provide fast protection while also taking a load off our network. We see the results—with Trend Micro Enterprise Security, the speed is there. Reaction times are faster. We can tell that things are becoming more efficient.”

TREND MICRO SOLUTIONS

- **Trend Micro Enterprise Security**
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- **NeatSuite Advanced**
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- **InterScan Messaging Hosted Security**
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