

# Case Study

## K-12 Education

### CUSTOMER SUCCESS

## Gain visibility and block anonymous proxies

#### CUSTOMER:

Garfield Heights City School District  
Ohio, USA  
(4600 Users)

#### CYMPHONIX PRODUCT:

Network Composer DC40X



#### Situation

Garfield Heights City School District, located in a suburb just outside of Cleveland, contains five schools within its system - including two elementary schools and one each of the intermediate, middle, and high schools - and currently has 4,100 students enrolled in its curriculum. The district employs almost 500 teachers, faculty and staff and supplies over 800 computers throughout the school buildings and school board offices.

Garfield Heights City School District operates its network on a Fiber to IP connection as mandated by the state of Ohio. Every classroom and office has at least one computer available and each school maintains public computer labs for student use.

#### Challenge

IT administrators for the district found that their previous content filtering solution did not provide the necessary visibility into online activities traversing its network. The schools' Internet connections would regularly slow to a crawl and, once administrators confirmed the problem was not with their Internet provider, they were unsure as to which sites or users were causing the lagging speeds.

"We knew that students were bypassing our filter and accessing blocked sites like MySpace through the use of anonymous proxies, but unfortunately we couldn't prove who was doing it or which sites they were accessing," said Shari Bailey, director of technology for the Garfield

Heights City School District.

The district's content filter also did not allow users to be given varying access capabilities to the Internet, which posed a problem as more and more teachers were requesting to use sites like YouTube in order to develop more diverse and creative lesson plans. While administrators wanted to support the use of technology to advance the educational process, opening access to such sites for the teaching faculty also gave the entire network of students and staff unmitigated access.

"Tracking down individual users proved to be a labor-intensive task. The district was in need of a solution that could become the eyes of our network - we simply don't have time to manually monitor all user activity and maintain blacklists on a daily basis," commented Bailey.

#### Solution

While attending the Ohio School Board Association's annual conference and tradeshow, Bailey came across a demonstration of the Cymphonix Network Composer and found the appliance's content filtering and

Reveal.  
Optimize.  
Protect.



grouping capabilities intriguing.

"I had not seen anything like the Network Composer before so I arranged to have a trial device set up on our network for a 30-day period," said Bailey. "It was incredible how much information was readily available after just a couple of days using the product. Before that, we never knew how much bandwidth was actually being consumed!"

Once the device was in place, the Network Composer DC40X allowed Garfield Heights City School District to create groupings of staff and student users to regulate and monitor which websites could be accessed by each group of users.



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Shari Bailey  
Director of Technology  
Garfield Heights City School District



"Now when our network slows down, I can quickly pull up the general dashboard to determine what has been downloaded or uploaded and discipline if necessary," Bailey said. "Cymphonix's real-time URL monitor has also proven to be useful by showing which sites are being visited at any given moment and which users are accessing it. As an example, right now, I can tell that one particular student has logged 210 visits to YouTube and I know exactly which computer he was using, what time he has been logging on, et cetera. I never would have had information like this with my previous solution!"

#### Success

Garfield Heights City School District gained unprecedented visibility into its network traffic and user activities

with the installation of a Cymphonix Network Composer DC40X. The Network Composer allowed IT administrators to provide varying levels of Internet access throughout the district, which permits teachers to use bandwidth intensive sites like YouTube for educational purposes without opening access to the site for the entire district. Network Composer also revealed how much bandwidth the district was consuming and provided administrators with the granular reporting necessary to pinpoint the causes of lagging network speeds.

Cymphonix's real-time monitoring capability allowed administrators to immediately see which sites individual users are accessed at any moment and then course-correct with policy updates or disciplinary investigation if necessary - ultimately optimizing the district's network and online activities. Finally, Network Composer automated Internet security, so that administrators no longer have to manually monitor its network on a daily basis - saving time, money and enabling access to creative teaching approaches.

#### See for Yourself

See how Network Composer delivers visibility, security, and performance in one reliable package. Contact your Authorized Cymphonix Reseller for an online demonstration or call or email Cymphonix at 866-511-1155 or [sales@cymphonix.com](mailto:sales@cymphonix.com)



#### About Cymphonix

Cymphonix Corporation, headquartered in Sandy, Utah, uses patentpending Cross-Layer Intelligence™ (XLI™) technology to provide unmatched network threat protection and resource optimization. With the powerful XLI engine, Cymphonix products seamlessly integrate network protection, application performance, and traffic visibility into a single, easily managed solution. Leading the Cymphonix product line is Network Composer, a smart gateway appliance that helps organizations understand at a glance who is abusing network resources and with what applications - enabling problems to be corrected instantly through a clear, easy-to-manage interface.



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