



Case Study

K-12 Education

CUSTOMER SUCCESS

Control content, manage bandwidth

CUSTOMER:

Lakeview Academy
Gainesville, USA
(700 users, 1 location)

CYMPHONIX PRODUCT:

Network Composer DC30

L A K E V I E W
A C A D E M Y



Situation

Lakeview Academy, an independent, college preparatory day school for children in grades Pre-K through 12, is located about 50 miles northeast of Atlanta in Gainesville, Georgia. The school was founded in 1970 and has maintained its commitment to excellence in the personal growth and academic development of college-bound students through a partnership of school, family and community.

The school maintains a student population of 600 and exposes children across all grades to technology courses. The campus is equipped with two computer labs, a wireless network, as well as a laptop program for students in grades 9 through 12.

Operating 500 computers, including laptops and PCs, on two bundled T1 connections, Lakeview Academy has been able to maintain a 1:1 computer program for its student population for the past 10 years. These computers are used by students, faculty and staff alike.

Challenge

Lakeview Academy prides itself on maintaining a solid network infrastructure, which it considers as one of the three main components of its Internet Safety program. The school began experiencing bandwidth issues related to Web 2.0 content such as streaming media and online gaming. They had previously implemented another content filtering solution in an attempt to control access to these sites. However, they believed that their students were attempting to bypass the filter with the help of anonymous

proxies and HTTPS protocols - and in many cases were successful. These bypass activities ultimately began to slow the overall performance of the network.

In addition to bandwidth issues, IT administrators for Lakeview Academy found themselves trying to adjust quickly and effectively to evolving Internet content as well as accommodate the demand from faculty to make these resources readily available in the classroom. Unfortunately, the school's content filter at the time did not allow IT administrators to separate traffic generated by faculty from that generated by students.

"With our previous solution we didn't have a way to distinguish URL priority or shape content as it was entering our network. We were forced to limit our governing policy to a single blacklist," said Lakeview Academy Network Administrator, Bruce Montgomery.

Connie White, Director of Technology and Media for the school added, "We needed the flexibility to adjust our policies as online resources become more prominent in the learning environment. Meeting these



demands required a solution that was robust enough to block students from accessing certain websites but still allow teachers to utilize the resources provided by these sites in the classroom.”



“We use a lot of Web 2.0 tools in the classroom and have realized that the malware associated with these resources doesn’t make it past the Network Composer and into our network. This ultimately allows our teachers to continue to enhance their lesson plans with the newest resources, yet still protect our students from inappropriate content.”

Connie White, Director of Technology and Media for Lakeview Academy
Nicholas County School District



Solution

As the school’s bandwidth issues became more prominent and the need for detailed group policies increased, Montgomery began researching possible solutions and came across the Cymphonix Network Composer while attending a laptop conference in Memphis. After learning more about the functionality of the Network Composer product line, Montgomery realized that the appliance was able to not only provide more visibility into the activities taking place on the school’s network, but also displayed data-based reports that were easy to review and distribute to other administrators and school decision makers.

“The reporting capabilities of the Network Composer are the real strength of the product,” commented Montgomery. “I’ve seen a lot of other filters but not many packet shapers. After some additional research and discussions with other schools, we ultimately felt that the Network Composer not only provided superior performance and content filtering capabilities on par with the competition, but was quick and easy to integrate into our existing network.”

Lakeview Academy decided to move forward with the Cymphonix Network

Composer DC30. Once administrators had the solution fully integrated and configured to fit the school’s needs, Montgomery and White saw the full value of their investment.

When Lakeview Academy’s IT staff has questions or concerns regarding Network Composer, they are able to reach out to the Cymphonix tech support team and their issues are addressed immediately.

“Cymphonix tech support is always great to work with. Whenever we need assistance, we can call and know that someone will follow up with us immediately. It’s a relief knowing that I don’t have to spend a lot of time doing the research myself when I have a resource like the Cymphonix support team at my fingertips,” said Montgomery.

Success

With the implementation of the Cymphonix Network Composer DC30, Lakeview Academy has been able to prioritize teacher access over recreational or student generated traffic and even allows teachers access to sites like YouTube, while locking students out.

“Obviously the integration of Internet resources into school curriculum’s has increased dramatically over the past few years; however, as many school budgets are being reduced due to the economy, adding additional bandwidth to accommodate the requirements of today’s Web resources is not a viable option. With the Network Composer, we are able to manage our bandwidth more effectively and eliminate the need for immediate bandwidth upgrades,” commented White.

In November 2008, Lakeview Academy’s Internet Safety Program received recognition by the Edward E. Ford Foundation for its excellence in educational technology along with a matching grant to help continue the development of the program and share these best practices with other schools.

White finished, “We use a lot of Web 2.0 tools in the classroom and have realized that the malware associated with these resources doesn’t make it past the Network Composer and into our network. This ultimately allows our teachers to continue to enhance

their lesson plans with the newest resources, yet still protect our students from inappropriate content. As an Internet Safety Program spokesperson, I travel to many different schools to give speeches, and become more and more aware of how much more control we have over our Internet at Lakeview Academy than most other schools. It’s incredible.”

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



About Cymphonix

Cymphonix Corporation, headquartered in Sandy, Utah, uses patent pending 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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