

# Case Study

## K-12 Education

### CUSTOMER SUCCESS

## Gain visibility and bandwidth responsiveness

#### CUSTOMER:

St. Paul's School for Boys  
Maryland, USA  
(1000 Users)

#### CYMPHONIX PRODUCT:

Network Composer DC30

**ST PAUL'S**  
INDEPENDENT K-12 DAY SCHOOL  
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

#### Situation

St. Paul's School for Boys, a small private school for children ages kindergarten through 12th grade, is located in Brooklandville Maryland, just outside of Baltimore. The school's network caters to 860 students and about 175 faculty members. Although the network is reasonably small, it still faces its fair share of issues. As the number of students and the dependency upon Internet resources for teaching and learning increased, the network's biggest issue became slow Internet responsiveness. Administrators attempted to solve the issue by adding more bandwidth - a second T1 line. Administrators assumed the issue was solved by adding the second line, but unfortunately they noticed almost immediately that the increased connection filled up as fast as the first, and the school still struggled with slow throughput.

#### Challenge

St. Paul's faced two major issues. First, they needed better Internet responsiveness, but adding more bandwidth didn't solve the issue. Second, they had no visibility to see what types of traffic were being generated - so any changes within their network would produce unknown results (administrators didn't know if their changes would limit critical traffic and opening up resources for non-critical traffic or actually solve the issue). Ultimately the school needed a solution that not only filtered non-critical and detrimental traffic, but also prioritized resources for learning-

critical applications and websites.

Additionally, administrators wanted a way to protect students from inappropriate content. With the proliferation of anonymous proxies and other filter-bypass technologies, administrators would either need to plan on investing significant time and resources updating block lists or find a solution that would automate the process. Because of their concern for protecting students, administrators wanted to provide them with the best controls available given their budget limitations.

#### Solution

After reviewing various solutions over the span of several months, St Paul's installed a Network Composer DC30 by Cymphonix. During the installation process, the staff at St. Paul's discovered one immediate issue. One of their back up servers was pulling down updates from the Internet all day long, in essence using up most of the bandwidth and in turn slowing Internet

access way down. After a quick look into the problem, the support staff at Cymphonix was able to quickly identify

Reveal.  
Optimize.  
Protect.



the problem, create a custom signature for the device, and place a limit on how much traffic the server could pass. "After figuring out the best settings, and receiving training from one of the tech engineers at Cymphonix, [we were able to] quickly resolve issues with the hardware/software." Susan exclaimed happily. St Paul's experience with the support team was "excellent"; the fast and friendly help not only resolved their issues, but also definitely improved their overall experience in regards to setting up and installing the Network Composer.



"The ability to see overall bandwidth usage was eye opening" says, Susan Kearney, St. Paul's Chief Network Administrator, after the Network Composer was installed. "We are also able to see what is going on and zero in on offenders."

Susan Kearney  
Chief Network Administrator  
St. Paul's School for Boys



Network Composer allows administrators to shape bandwidth and prioritize applications according to job relativity and importance, and also delivers complete filtering control over Internet content. "The ability to see overall bandwidth usage was eye opening" says, Susan Kearney, St. Paul's Chief Network Administrator, after the Network Composer was installed. "We are also able to see what is going on and zero in on offenders." Now, administrators could easily limit eliminate the "hogs" of Internet bandwidth. Once Network Composer was installed and administrators were able to see how traffic was being used, they immediately freed up over 30% of the bandwidth.

In addition to controlling bandwidth, administrators set policy for filtering Internet content to protect students and support the learning environment.

Administrators chose to provide faculty and older students with filtered access to the web while placing much more targeted restrictions to access on younger students.

Network Composer was installed in-line between the router and the switch to provide deep packet scanning and identification - making it easy to filter both unencrypted and SSL encrypted browsing traffic, and also stop anonymous proxies and other content filtering bypass approaches. This configuration ensures that the students of St Paul's are safe and secure, despite those tech-savvy students who know how to work their way around other content filters. Additionally, Network Composer's anonymous proxy blocking technology automated the process of black-listing anonymous proxy websites daily. St Paul's network administrators could now utilize their time to resolve other issues.

St Paul's administrative staff also enjoyed the friendly interface of Network Composer. Administrators felt that the easy-to-use configurations made it easy for everyone to navigate through reports and other aids.

St. Paul's purchased Network Composer through Connectionneers.



### 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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