Organization
Srishti School of Art, Design and Technology

Country
India, Asia

Industry/ Vertical
Education

Internet poses as one of our major resources.

- Mr. Benjamin J. Peter
IT Manager
Srishti School

Cyberoam Provides Safe and Productive Internet Access to Srishti School

About Srishti

Srishti School of Art, Design and Technology, located in Bengaluru (Bangalore), India, was founded in 1996 by Ujwal Trust with the objective of providing art and design education in an environment of creativity to maximize the individual's potential.

Srishti provides its students with curricula integrating multiple disciplines with an arts foundation. It offers undergraduate and graduate programs specializing in Textile Design, Product & Interface Design, Visual Communication Design, Independent and Broadcast Media (Film & Video) and Furniture & Interior Design. It also offers graduate diploma programs in Animation and Gaming, Art & Design for Education and Experimental Media Arts.

The Srishti Challenge

"All our students access their study material through our website over the Internet. Also, a major part of the students' research work is done over Internet. Hence, it poses as one of our major resources", said Mr. Benjamin J. Peter, IT Manager at Srishti School. Uninterrupted and safe Internet access was a primary need. But, being constantly connected to the Internet had its own drawbacks. Mr. Peter noticed the following issues regarding Internet usage and its ill effects on the Srishti network.

No Accountability for Internet Usage

Lack of any restrictions on Internet Usage encouraged the students to surf the Internet for non-study-related and unproductive purposes. "The students surfed Internet as and how they pleased, with nothing to keep a check on them", said Mr. Peter. The biggest culprits were social networking and gaming sites to which students remained glued for a large part of their time, getting distracted from their academics.

Unwanted Data Transfer

Unmonitored and Illegitimate upload/download of data took a toll on the school's available bandwidth. Mr. Peter wanted to put a stop-cork on all P2P applications, Instant Messengers and other unproductive application downloads and usage. Academic-related websites and applications were to be given priority in bandwidth usage.

Malware Causing Mayhem

Due to constant exposure to the Internet, the Srishti network was vulnerable to malware attacks which often took a blended form. Malware ranged from relatively harmless ones that forced users to press some keyboard keys at regular intervals to vicious ones that corrupted files in the boot sector, reformatted the entire hard disk or even caused system crashes.

The Cyberoam Solution

After scouring the market for a suitable solution, including Cisco, Mr. Peter found Cyberoam to be the ideal mix of best-of-the-breed network security solutions which fulfilled all their needs and more. Three (3) Cyberoam Appliances are deployed in all Three (3) of Srishti's campuses in Bengaluru. There are Two (2) CR 100ia and One (1) CR 200i, all in Gateway Mode.

After Cyberoam Deployment, Mr. Peter noticed the following business benefits.

Identity-based Security: A Name for every IP

Cyberoam's unique identity-based security gives full visibility of user activities in the network. It is like monitoring exactly "Who is doing What". "I do not need to go chasing after IP addresses as Cyberoam gives an identity to every IP address. I can create and manage policies, as well as track all student activities using their actual identities rather than just IP addresses", said Mr. Peter. He uses LDAP Authentication to create user identities for all students.

Comprehensive Reporting

Cost-free On-appliance reporting is one of Cyberoam's most celebrated features. The sophisticated monitoring and reporting mechanism helps Mr. Peter to perform timely and accurate in-depth risk assessment. Available reports enable him to modify access policies based on the academic requirements. Reports include Internet bandwidth usage, top accessed sites, as well as Google search reports, which enhance the visibility of user's online behavior. The "Traffic Discovery" report also helps the administrator identify the amount of bandwidth used by various applications.

Internet Usage Bridled

Cyberoam allows Mr. Peter to instantly block web sites and enforce acceptable usage policies on students, faculty and other staff alike. Cyberoam has a content filtering database of more than 44 million websites, categorized in 82+ categories. All unauthorized downloads, P2P applications, pirated audio and video streaming and other harmful content is now safely blocked.

Furthermore, Cyberoam allows user-based limit on bandwidth, access time and volume of data transfer. Hence, Mr. Peter can control user behavior on the internet by assigning varying bandwidth to users according to their need, controlling the time in which they can have access to the internet and limiting the volume of data which a user can upload, download or both.

Malware Filtered at Gateway

Cyberoam's Gateway Anti-Virus & Anti-Spyware solution secures the Srishti network by providing real-time protection against viruses, worms, Trojans, keyloggers, spyware and more on all Internet traffic. According to Mr. Peter, "Having Cyberoam standing guard at our network gateway makes us heave a sigh of relief. It safeguards our network against variants of malware."

Network Edges Shielded

ICSA and Checkmark - dual certified Cyberoam's stateful inspection firewall now cordons off the Srishti network against any unauthorized access. Students are given controlled access to network and internet resources, ensuring that no security loopholes are left open.

To Draw a Close

"Cyberoam has put a lot of load off my head regarding our network's security. It acts as a long term solution for our security needs", said Mr. Peter.

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