

GFI Case Study: Brevard Public Schools

GFI VIPRE® Business Premium Gets Top Marks at Brevard Public Schools

Challenge

To achieve total endpoint security for its PCs and servers

Solution

VIPRE proved to be easy to manage and highly cost-effective while still providing superior endpoint protection.

Too many viruses, too many problems

The school district had been using LANDesk Antivirus, a well-known security product from LANDesk Software.

"We had been using LANDesk for about 6 years," says Barrett Puschus, technology network operations coordinator for Brevard Public Schools. "It never worked well, but last year we reached the end of our rope with the product. We were hit by a lot of malware that LANDesk didn't detect and that nearly forced us to shut down our entire network."

Puschus estimates that approximately 60 percent of the network's 33,000 servers and workstations were infected with malware that prevented web access, trawled the network for information to steal, corrupted programs, consumed considerable network resources, shot down access to some machines and slowed computing performance.

School district selected VIPRE over six other leading products

After months of research and testing, involving seven different malware protection and security products, the Brevard Public Schools district replaced LANDesk with GFI VIPRE Business Premium.

"We looked at McAfee, Symantec and a few other products, testing each rigorously and impartially," he notes. "VIPRE came out on top overall. It did everything we wanted it to do. It detected and prevented malware, was easy to use and was not a resource hog. Plus, it even installed and ran on older machines without any problem. That was very important to us as we have thousands of old PCs."

ORGANIZATION:

Brevard Public Schools

GFI PRODUCT:

GFI VIPRE Business Premium

VERTICAL MARKET:

Education

NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES:

9,000

NUMBER OF GFI USERS:

Approximately 70,000

COMPUTING ENVIRONMENT:

Windows

CUSTOMER PROFILE:

Brevard Public Schools (BPS) is a school district in Brevard County, Florida. An A-rated district for seven consecutive years, BPS serves approximately 73,000 students, making it the 10th largest district in Florida and the 47th largest in the United States.

The district is the biggest employer in Brevard County, employing more than 9,000 people, including more than 5,000 instructional personnel. With 86 schools, 17 special centers and 9 charter schools, the district serves students in 17 different municipalities across the Space Coast.

BPS has 100 IT sites connected to the central IT site in the school district headquarters in Viera, Fla.

GFI VIPRE Business Premium uses an advanced technology stack that scans large volumes of information quickly while using minimal system resources. VIPRE's anti-malware engine features kernel-level, real-time monitoring and protection against both known and unknown threats. The solution detects and blocks viruses, worms, spyware, Trojans, bots and rootkits.

Phased implementation was a breeze

After buying VIPRE in November 2011, the school district implemented the product at its most infected site, and, once VIPRE proved a complete success there, BPS rolled it out in phases across the network.

"We decided on a phased approach so we could see if there were problems at the first site and could document our findings for the subsequent deployments," says Puschus. "To our amazement, there were no problems, although we ran a series of tests for a month or so."

Hard and soft returns on investment

VIPRE has helped the school district to save thousands of dollars in IT time and has made life easier for IT staff.

"I would estimate that VIPRE has saved us countless hours we would have spent manually removing malware and fixing infected machines if we had kept using LANDesk," Puschus says. "By not having to do all that work, our IT folks have been able to focus on more productive and creative tasks."

Puschus adds that VIPRE's impact has been immense and subtle, as the product has performed flawlessly without staff and students even being aware of its presence.

What's next for VIPRE at Brevard Public Schools?

"We plan to make use of the high-end features of VIPRE Business Premium — its firewall and web filtering," says Puschus.

VIPRE Business Premium includes a bi-directional firewall that protects against inbound and outbound threats with optional rules for applications, ports and system services.

Its web filtering capability automatically blocks third-party ads, as well as malicious URLs and phishing websites and it optionally blocks scripts.

"VIPRE Business Premium has exceeded the malware protection requirements of Brevard Public Schools. It has been an ideal solution for us – powerful, consistent and easy to administer thanks to the great centralized management console."

Barrett Puschus
Technology Network Operations
Coordinator, Brevard Public Schools

For more information visit www.gfi.com/vipre



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