

Expanded Endpoint Security Lowers Risks in School Networks

Trend Micro™ Enterprise Security for Endpoints integrates data protection and mobile security while simplifying management.

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— Michael Clark, Helpdesk Technician, Battle Ground School District

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Customer Name: Battle Ground School District

Industry: K12 Education

Location: Battle Ground, Washington

Web site: www.battlegroundps.org

Number of Employees: 1,500 (13,000 students)

CHALLENGE:

- Do more with less (shrinking budgets, limited staff)
- Stay ahead of emerging threats
- Give teachers open, flexible access to web resources, without increasing vulnerabilities
- Maximize user experiences (minimize security overhead)
- Evolve security in a way that aligns security with technology goals

SOLUTION:

- Trend Micro Enterprise Security for Endpoints, including the Data Loss Prevention plug-in
- Trend Micro Mobile Security

BUSINESS RESULTS:

- Ability to consolidate endpoint security (one vendor; one management console)
- Increased data loss protection, with new easy-to-deploy plug-in
- More control and visibility for security, including managing security for smart devices
- Customizable dashboard, for improved at-a-glance status information and faster drill-down to tasks of interest

Challenge

Battle Ground School District stretches over 271 square miles, including the lowlands of suburban Vancouver in the west and the Cascade Mountains in the east. Volcanic Mount St. Helens looms just 10 miles outside of the district's northeast boundary.

The geography makes the technology infrastructure both vital to success as well as challenging to manage with a small IT support staff. Budgets have also challenged the staff, and resulted in ongoing efforts to choose technology that can yield cost savings and efficiency. The district fully understands that technology can affect student performance, and strives to deploy technology that can cost-effectively serve students and teachers at almost two dozen sites.

Securing the district's network and systems has been a high priority for Battle Ground Schools, and maintaining control over sensitive data is a must. The staff makes an effort to keep up to date on the evolving nature of threats, and has lately been looking at ways to maintain protection as they simultaneously allow teachers more capabilities, including the introduction of smart devices such as iPads.

Solution

The technology team for the district has always aimed to choose security solutions that balance protection with good user experiences. “Teachers and students always want more, and so we have to build in the necessary defense from threats without causing a revolt,” said Michael Clark, the helpdesk technician for Battle Ground School District.

Since 2005, Trend Micro Enterprise Security for Endpoints has given the district a flexible platform that has evolved along with the infrastructure, and made it possible to benefit from a steady stream of new features.

Trend Micro™ Enterprise Security is a tightly integrated offering of content security products, services, and solutions. Powered by the Trend Micro™ Smart Protection Network™ infrastructure, Trend Micro Enterprise Security delivers maximum protection from emerging threats while minimizing the cost and complexity of security management.

“We originally switched to Trend Micro Enterprise Security because the previous solution from another leading security vendor was consuming too many resources on our endpoints,” said Clark. “After looking at many different alternatives, we found that Trend Micro gave us all the features we wanted, at a good price point, and without taxing our client systems.”

This year, the district participated in the beta testing of the newest release of Enterprise Security for Endpoints. The advancements simplify deployment, configuration, and management of an integrated data protection solution. From a single console, the district can now manage threat protection, along with data loss prevention (DLP), and Trend Micro™ Mobile Security.

“Originally, our interests in the new release of Enterprise Security for Endpoints were focused on IPv6 support, but we discovered that there were many major improvements—most noticeably data protection and the simplicity for deploying and managing plug-ins,” said Clark. “The new widget-based dashboard provides enhanced integration for the plug-ins, with easy-to-use management tabs so that we can quickly oversee all of the plug-ins deployed across all of our sites. The Enterprise Security for Endpoints dashboard is now much more customizable in general, too, and we can set it up to view the information of interest very quickly. And faster drill-down to the tasks of interest will save us time. These capabilities and advanced reporting are all very nice enhancements.”

Results

The new Enterprise Security for Endpoints solution is well aligned with Battle Ground School District’s plans for the future.

“As a school district, we have to be aware of how our data is being handled,” said Clark. “Right now, we are monitoring what types of information employees are sending out. Enterprise Security for Endpoints, with the new DLP plug-in, can help us with our monitoring efforts and therefore improve our understanding and visibility about data movement in our environment. Then we can continue to evolve our internal standards and policies, and take advantage of Trend Micro data protection features as we phase in tighter controls.”

The district is also seeing the introduction of mobile devices, such as iPads, onto school networks. “We are starting to see an increase in the numbers of laptops and smart devices on our networks,” said Clark. “Enterprise Security for Endpoints lets us manage security for mobile devices using the same central dashboard that we use for our other desktops and servers. By adding Trend Micro Mobile Security, we can control the new smart devices and the applications that they can use on our network.”

While the technology staff continues to explore and introduce features from the latest Trend Micro endpoint security release, they appreciate that the newest solutions are still “light and lean” in terms of client resource utilization. “Keeping client security lightweight is very important strategically for our district,” said Clark. “Trend Micro Enterprise Security for Endpoints, powered by Smart Protection Network, has less impact on our systems than it used to have, even with many new features. And Trend Micro continues to introduce ground-breaking features that take into account changes in infrastructure architectures and approaches.”

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DEPLOYMENT ENVIRONMENT

- 23 sites
- 3,000 PCs; 80 servers (20 virtualized)
- VMware vSphere
- Trend Micro Enterprise Security for Endpoints
- DLP Plug-in
- Trend Micro Mobile Security

Company Profile

The Battle Ground School District in north-east Clark County celebrated its Centennial in 2009–2010. A hundred years earlier, during the presidency of William Howard Taft, two one-school districts merged and consolidated into what is today the Battle Ground district. During the first six and a half decades, 54 small rural districts were folded into it. Today, Battle Ground Public Schools serve more than 13,000 students, with the mission to educate young minds to ensure that children are prepared for the next steps in their lives.

Trend Micro Security

- **Trend Micro Enterprise Security for Endpoints**
<http://us.trendmicro.com/us/products/enterprise/security-for-endpoints/index.html>
- **Trend Micro Mobile Security**
<http://us.trendmicro.com/us/products/enterprise/anti-spyware-enterprise-edition/index.html>

Trend Micro Enabling Technology

- **Trend Micro Smart Protection Network**
<http://us.trendmicro.com/us/trendwatch/core-technologies/smart-protection-network/>



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