

West Carroll Special School District gets a lesson in security from Sophos and saves \$50,000.

Customer-at-a-glance

West Carroll Special School District

Industry

Education

Sophos solutions

Sophos UTM with Network, Email and Wireless Protection and 34 Access Points





The problem

The West Carroll Special School District was using an Ubuntu server as their gateway and firewall. While the server seemed to be working it did not provide Shelia Brawner, technology coordinator at the West Tennessee School District, with visibility into the network's performance or security.

The requirements

Brawner hired Syndesi Solutions to provide engineering support and consultation services and to help the school district find a solution that would allow them to bundle all the functions they required into one solution. They also wanted a solution that would provide effective security and simple management. "I don't have a lot of time to spend managing our security. In addition to deploying a new security solution, we were considering implementing a wireless network throughout the campus," explained Brawner.

The solution

After discussing the school district's needs and requirements, and looking at products from Lightspeed, Syndesi Solutions recommended the Sophos UTM appliance with network, email and wireless protection subscriptions. The school district also purchased 34 Sophos Access Points to be installed in four separate locations.

"Sophos UTM fits all of West Carroll Special School District's requirements. It has a user-friendly interface and is an all-in-one solution. We recommended the software edition so that the school district could take advantage of the server hardware they already possessed," said Nathan Kitchen, network administrator for Syndesi Solutions.



“Coordinating firewall and wireless security in one solution has saved us a considerable amount of time as well as money.”

Shelia Brawner, technology coordinator, West Carroll Special School District

Success with Sophos

The Sophos UTM appliance and Access Points saved the West Carroll Special School District approximately \$50,000 when compared to competitors' costs. The district was able to save this considerable amount of money while gaining wireless security and a better understanding of network usage and performance.

“We are able to centrally manage our wireless network, as well as secure the entire network, for a fraction of what point solutions would have cost us. Coordinating firewall and wireless security in one solution has saved us a considerable amount of time as well as money,” said Brawner.

Adding to the cost savings was the fact that Brawner was able to reuse the hardware the school district already owned by purchasing the software version of the Sophos UTM appliance.

Brawner concluded, “We are able to protect all 1,500 of our users, save money and improve our security all with Sophos.”

About the partner

In the complicated world of information technology, Syndesi Solutions bridges the gap between business needs and the technology of today. Syndesi Solutions uses experience and knowledge to provide the most cost effective and efficient solutions for business needs. Their well-trained staff understands information technology needs and can help manage environments to shorten down time, or to just be there when an organization needs them most.

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