



Case Study

Higher Education

CUSTOMER SUCCESS

Prioritize bandwidth

CUSTOMER:

Garden City Community College
Kansas, USA
(2600 Users)

CYMPHONIX PRODUCT:

Network Composer DC30X



Situation

Garden City Community College located in Garden City, Kansas, currently has over 2,200 students enrolled in its undergraduate program. The educational philosophy of the college calls for the institution to promote the highest possible level of achievement through educational, personal and social experiences. It's this philosophy that guides the decision making process on campus and has therefore resulted in the school's promotion as an open access computer network.

Currently operating on a 10MB circuit, Garden City Community College's network consists of approximately 700 university owned PCs located in computer labs as well faculty and administration offices across 15 buildings on campus. There are also another 150 personal computers located in dorms that are also granted access to the college's network.

Challenge

Andy Gough, Network Administrator for Garden City Community College, was originally running his network on a 6MB connection; however, his network speeds were sluggish 24/7. These lagging speeds were generating an impressively high number of help desk complaints and preventing students and staff from completing daily tasks in a timely manner. At one point, Gough thought that dramatically increasing his bandwidth to a 10MB connection would solve his problem; however, once the upgrade was complete, his available bandwidth was still essentially non-

existent. "I guess you could say our speeds doubled, but we're talking going from a 20K to a 40K download speed. It just proved that the more bandwidth you make available, the more your users are going to consume it," commented Gough.

Garden City Community College was, at that time, relying on cooperative efforts between McAfee and Packeteer products in an attempt to filter content and provide Internet security for the entire campus; however, these methods had fallen short of the college's expectations and Gough hoped to integrate an all-inclusive solution.

Solution

Andy Gough was confident that P2P file sharing and sites like MySpace and YouTube were responsible for his network's lagging speeds; however, due to the college's policy of maintaining an open access network, he was forced to keep these sites on his white list. While investigating other possible solutions, Gough came to the conclusion that prioritizing websites and throttling bandwidth was the only solution that would fulfill the requirements of the college without bogging down his

Reveal.
Optimize.
Protect.



network.

Gough initially approached Jack Evans at SpeedLink Solutions to discuss the features and benefits of Red Condor's email solutions when the discussion turned to the college's bandwidth issues. Evans suggested the Cymphonix Network Composer for content filtering and bandwidth prioritization and set Gough up with a trial box. "Jack was great to work with. He worked to get us set up with a free trial Network Composer DC30X so we could see if the solution would perform up to our expectations," commented Gough.



"Once the policies were in place, our download speeds went from 40K to anywhere from 400-600K. It made a huge difference!"

Andy Gough
Network Administrator
Garden City Community College



Once the box was installed, Garden City Community College saw the value of the Network Composer within three days. The solution showed exactly who was generating the traffic and also identified what type of traffic was responsible to the majority of the school's bandwidth use. It was revealed that the majority of the traffic was coming from online communities and streaming media. "I thought there would have been more P2P file sharing but there was hardly any. Online communities were consuming the highest percentage of my bandwidth and streaming media was second. Once I had this information, it allowed me to set specific shaping and prioritization policies so that these types of sites could still be accessed, but they wouldn't be allowed to consume the amount of bandwidth that previously had been," Gough continued. "Once the policies were in place, our download speeds went from 40K to anywhere from 400-600K. It made a huge difference!"

Success

The Cymphonix Network Composer immediately revealed which types of websites were consuming the majority of Garden City Community College's bandwidth and allowed IT administrators to optimize the school's bandwidth availability by throttling and prioritizing traffic. The Network Composer helped the college maintain its philosophy as an open access campus without negatively impacting productivity.

See for Yourself

See how Network Composer delivers visibility, security, and performance in one reliable package. Contact your Authorized Cymphonix Reseller for an online demonstration or call or email Cymphonix at 866-511-1155 or sales@cymphonix.com



About Cymphonix

Cymphonix Corporation, headquartered in Sandy, Utah, uses patentpending 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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