



Los Angeles County Office of Education Gives Marshal8e6 High Marks for Filtering Proxies

Client:

Los Angeles County Office of Education

Number of Users:

33,000

Requirements:

Web Filtering and Reporting, Invisible Authentication, Blocking Proxies

Solutions:

R3000 Internet Filter and Enterprise Reporter

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Senior Network Engineer,
LACOE

Profile

The Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) is the nation’s largest regional education agency, providing technical services such as ISP and other educational programs for teachers, administrators, parents, and the 81 school districts in Los Angeles County—the nation’s most populous county with nearly 1.7 million students. Dedicated to promoting the achievement of schools and students, LACOE prides itself on being the premier provider of integrated educational programs and services in a richly diverse and multicultural global environment.

Challenge

Like other educational organizations, LACOE faces the challenge of keeping anonymous proxies out of school environments. “Prior to purchasing Marshal8e6’s Internet filtering and reporting solution, it was a daily routine for the LACOE IT staff to have to find ways to stop students from accessing inappropriate material on the Web,” says Gil Saucedo, Senior Network Engineer. “It was really frustrating for us, since we had limited time and resources. We were overwhelmed by the number of kids trying to access MySpace.com and adult sites.” In addition, LACOE was experiencing network degradation due to students accessing bandwidth-draining applications. “We depend heavily on our CIPA e-Rate funds and couldn’t afford to have them slashed due to not complying with CIPA laws. We needed a fail-safe filter that would work overtime, just as we do.”

Finally, because LACOE services one of the largest public school county’s in the nation, LACOE administrators were strict on keeping costs down. “We don’t want to extend high costs to school districts that are strapped for cash,” Saucedo says. “It was essential that our Internet filtering solution be affordable as well as reliable.”

Solutions

LACOE evaluated several products before selecting the Marshal8e6 solution. “When reviewing Internet filtering products, Marshal8e6 offered us the most exhaustive service options available,” says Mr. Saucedo. “Marshal8e6’s filtering and reporting solution has become an essential tool for LACOE because it has reduced our need to closely monitor network resources. This has conserved our IT resources because staff can now focus on mission-critical projects. In addition, LACOE is saving money with the additional bandwidth we now have.”

Marshal8e6’s Internet filtering and reporting solution enables schools to filter access to inappropriate content on the Web, as well as potentially harmful sites, while allowing students and staff to access relevant information. As an appliance-based solution, Marshal8e6’s product provides low maintenance, superior performance, fail-safe function and single-source support. Unlike software-based solutions that often slow down network traffic and become a bottleneck or point of failure,

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Marshal8e6’s “pass-by” technology allows the filter to be installed outside the flow of network traffic to “watch” rather than “stop and check” Web site requests. If the R3000 Internet filter detects a request for a blocked site or IM network, data is then blocked from returning to the end-user.

Finally, Marshal8e6 is the only Internet content filtering provider that utilizes signature-based blocking in order to block peer-to-peer, instant messaging, and anonymous proxies, effectively preventing users from accessing these applications. Utilizing revolutionary Intelligent Footprint Technology™ (IFT), Marshal8e6’s R3000 unique “Proxy Pattern Blocking” feature catches requests for anonymous proxies on the fly, giving organizations zero-day protection against many open-source proxies. Therefore, if the site is not categorized as Web-Based/Anonymous Proxies in the Marshal8e6 database, the R3000 will still be able to block access to the site based on the signature files in the Database. Not only does the “Proxy Pattern Blocking” feature identify attempts to set up proxy tunnels and prevent these connections from being made, it keeps a record of the number of times a student tries to evade the filter in this way.

“Proxies are among the least of LACOE’s concerns at the moment,” says Mr. Saucedo. “We no longer worry about students accessing MySpace.com and other banned sites because Marshal8e6 does such a great job at keeping students from accessing anonymous proxies.”

Result

“I’m really amazed at the amount of time we’ve saved since implementing Marshal8e6’s solution,” says Mr. Saucedo. “The only time we ever have to spend on the product is when schools ask us to remove sites that are being blocked, which doesn’t occur very often.”

Mr. Saucedo continues: “I get phone calls everyday from other Internet filtering service providers. However, I am completely satisfied with Marshal8e6. They do one thing really well, rather than be a ‘jack of all trades and master of none’ like so many Internet filtering companies out there.”

About Marshal8e6

Marshal8e6 is a global provider of Secure Internet Gateway products for organizations of all sizes. Marshal8e6 is the only security company capable of delivering comprehensive content security across multiple delivery platforms, including software, appliances and Software-as-a-service (SaaS). The company’s complete security portfolio delivers the tools necessary to manage and secure email, Web and the endpoint as well as protect against data leakage. Today, more than 16 million end users in more than 20,000 companies in 96 countries rely on Marshal8e6 solutions to protect their businesses at the email and Web gateway.



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