



# Marshal8e6 Passes the Test in Providing a Safe and Fun Internet Learning Experience for Region 17 Education Service Center

## Client:

Region 17 Education Service Center

## Web Site:

www.esc17.net

## Number of Users:

17,000

## Requirements:

Web Filtering and Reporting

## Solutions:

R3000 Internet Filter and Enterprise Reporter 3.0

“Both the R3000 and the Enterprise Reporter are straightforward and uncomplicated tools, delivering first-rate performance.”

## Kyle Plumlee

Network Specialist,  
Region 17 Education Service Center

## Profile

Region 17 Education Service Center is not just any educational organization. Created in 1967 by the Texas State Board of Education, Region 17 provides an array of services to support school administration and instruction, helping increase student performance, enabling school districts to operate efficiently and economically, while implementing state education initiatives. Region 17 also provides volunteer-based training for staff along with continuing adult education courses, focusing on computer basics. There are 17,000 users on their network and at any given time approximately 7,000 users are on simultaneously. Region 17 not only needed a filtering and reporting system to comply with the Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA), but by servicing so many districts, IT administrators needed to unload non-critical tasks in order to focus their priorities on mission-critical projects. After extensively researching the content filtering market, Region 17 decided that Marshal8e6’s R3000 Internet Filter and the Enterprise Reporter 3.0 were the best solutions for its needs.

## Challenge

Network Specialist, Kyle Plumlee, found he was being swamped with requests from teachers asking him to block Web sites they deemed unsafe for student viewing. At the same time he was also asked to unblock Web sites that Region 17’s then-content filter indiscriminately marked “objectionable.” For example, students researching for biology projects or for book reports might put in “sexual life cycle” or “sexism in Shakespeare” and be denied access to these sites because of the word “sex.” Not only did this create a slowing process in the educational system, but it was also wreaking havoc on everyone’s nerves. “The problem with the old filter was that teachers were constantly calling and e-mailing me to block and unblock sites. It was frustrating to them when I couldn’t get to the sites immediately and slowed me down with my other job requirements.”

At the same time Region 17 didn’t want a system that would block or unblock the requested sites for all the schools — just for the one that requested it. The one thing that was needed across all boards, however, was the blocking of Instant Messaging (IM) and Peer-to-Peer (P2P) downloads. With such a large user base, administrators wanted the assurance that bandwidth would not be depleted because of frivolous downloads.

## Solution

Not only did the price of the R3000 Internet Filter attract Region 17's attention, but the options included allowed the decision-makers to promptly seal the deal. A dedicated filtering appliance that offers both speed and scalability, the R3000 is a standalone server that never allows the system to improperly interfere with Internet usage. This ensures stability and performance without compromising other server functions.

The R3000's key features include Real-Time Probes which allows administrators to monitor a user's Internet usage in real-time; "X-Strikes" Blocking, which locks out a user's workstation after a set number of times a user attempts to access a blocked page and Google™ SafeSearch enforcement, which blocks access to inappropriate content with the Google search engine-including images. In addition, the R3000 features a Customer Feedback Module (CFM), which sends the most frequently visited non-categorized URLs from participating customers back to Marshal8e6 on a daily basis. These URLs are reviewed and added to the Marshal8e6 database.

Going hand-in-hand with the R3000 is the Enterprise Reporter 3.0 — the industry's fastest and only dedicated Internet reporting appliance. Like the R3000, filtering speed and other network functions are never compromised because it is a stand-alone server. The ER has been proven to handle substantial amounts of Internal traffic on the network and the pre-processing feature allows the ER to store data in a format that facilitates high-speed data retrieval.

"What I especially like about the R3000," Plumlee says, "is that it has a highly accessible Web client view, which makes it much easier for me to work with the program. In addition, its ability to distribute information to other districts really funnels down the busy work, and allows me to focus on more high-priority projects."

## Result

Not only do Plumlee and Region 17's other IT administrators no longer have to spend time and energy policing Web surfing, but the R3000 has helped them conserve bandwidth by restricting access to bandwidth-wasting Internet applications. This gives administrators a more efficient workday and districts have more control over Web content filtering. The entire solution is CIPA compliant; but best of all, it is staff, teacher, and student friendly. Plumlee says, "Both the R3000 and the Enterprise Reporter are straightforward and uncomplicated tools, delivering first-rate performance."

## 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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