



Franklin Lakes Public Schools Leads the Way with the M86 Web Filter to Ensure Safe and Appropriate Internet Access for Students and Faculty

Client:

Franklin Lakes Schools

Web Site:

www.franklinlakes.k12.nj.us

Number of Users:

1,550

Requirements:

Web Filtering

Solutions:

M86 Web Filter

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Bridget Pastenkos
Technical Coordinator
Franklin Lakes Schools

Profile

Franklin Lakes Public Schools, located in Franklin Lakes, New Jersey, educates 1,550 students in three elementary schools and one middle school. Continuously improving and updating its educational system, Franklin Lakes is proud to provide the best education for its students and service the community with programs that reinforce family values and community welfare. Which is why Franklin Lakes selected the M86 Web Filter to maintain a safe and productive environment for both students and staff members. Not only does Franklin Lakes comply with CIPA (Children's Internet Protection Act), but it also keeps outside Internet threats from infiltrating the network and prevents requests to administrator-deemed “illegal” Web sites.

Challenge

Since 2001, CIPA has required K-12 schools and libraries that receive certain federal funds to implement Internet safety measures. Among the requirements, these schools and libraries must implement a technology solution that filters or blocks inappropriate and unwanted Internet content. For smaller school districts such as Franklin Lakes, government aid is fundamental, especially since it has helped build a new school, reducing elementary school crowding and bringing in new computers and other technology. After having researched numerous Internet filtering and reporting companies, Technical Coordinator Bridget Pastenkos decided to purchase M86's previous appliance after it was recommended to her by other local colleges and school districts. “I was told it was foolproof,” Pastenkos says. When it was time to renew, Pastenkos decided to upgrade to the M86 Web Filter. She didn't even need to consider other solutions — it came with a great price tag and more raving recommendations.

Solution

The M86 Web Filter is a stand-alone server appliance dedicated to filtering Internet access, ensuring stability, scalability, and performance without compromising other server/network functions. Permitting school IT administrators to customize Internet access policies by user, group, workstation, or network, it allows faculty to access a different range of sites than those accessible to students.

School administrators are also provided with a tool to enforce a school's Acceptable Use Policy, which ensures that Franklin Lakes is CIPA compliant, limiting legal liability by blocking inappropriate and objectionable material.

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In addition, because of the standalone feature, the M86 Web Filter frees up IT management for mission-critical projects rather than constantly addressing issues at the firewall or proxy. Pastenkos says, “Other solutions I tested were too much work and virtually impossible to keep updated. The M86 Web Filter, on the other hand, automatically updates information, giving me more time to spend on my other job priorities.” The interface also allows for quick and easy interaction. “Anybody using the M86 Web Filter’s interface should have no problem.”

Finally, the M86 Web Filter blocks sites with bandwidth-intensive content that improves overall network performance. Students are unable to download MP3s and other streaming media and are redirected to their studies when they cannot access online chat groups or instant messages.

Result

Instead of having to spend an inordinate amount of time addressing reporting and filtering issues, Pastenkos now focuses her energy on other projects. “The appliance is so easy, I barely interact with it. That is why it is a great value.” The only time she really has to work with the M86 Web Filter is to unblock a site a teacher has already researched and deemed appropriate. Otherwise, it sits quietly on the network and watches activity without a glitch. M86 support staff has also proven to be very accommodating. “M86 called back more than once. They couldn’t have been more forth-coming and helpful.” Pastenkos adds, “From the initial friendly and professional sales call to its installation, the M86 Web Filter has proved to be the right decision in maintaining a safe content filtered environment for students and teachers and a reliable user friendly tool for the IT department.”

ABOUT M86 SECURITY

M86 Security is the global expert in real-time threat protection and the industry’s leading Secure Web Gateway provider. The company’s appliance, software, and Software as a Service (SaaS) solutions for Web and email security protect more than 24,000 customers and over 17 million users worldwide. M86 products use patented real-time code analysis and behavior-based malware detection technologies as well as threat intelligence from M86 Security Labs to protect networks against new and advance threats, secure confidential information, and ensure regulatory compliance. The company is based in Orange, California with international headquarters in London and development centers in California, Israel, and New Zealand.

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