



# Los Angeles County Office of Education Gives M86 Security 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

## Filtering Solutions:

M86 Web Filter and Reporter

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Gil Saucedo  
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 M86’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 M86 Security solution. “When reviewing Internet filtering products, M86 offered us the most exhaustive service options available,” says Mr. Saucedo. “M86’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.”

The M86 Web Filter and Reporter (M86 WFR) 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, M86’s product provides low maintenance, superior performance, fail-safe function and single-source support.

“I get phone calls everyday from other Internet filtering service providers. However, I am completely satisfied with M86. 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.”

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Senior Network Engineer,  
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## 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.

Unlike software-based solutions that often slow down network traffic and become a bottleneck or point of failure, M86'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 M86 WFR detects a request for a blocked site or IM network, data is then blocked from returning to the end-user.

Finally, M86 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), the M86 WFR's 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 M86 Web Filter Database, the M86 WFR 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 M86 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 M86'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 M86 Security. 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."

## TRY BEFORE YOU BUY

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