



# Mesa County Valley School District Gives M86 Security's Hardware Solution and Authentication Feature an A+

**Client:**

Mesa County Valley School District

**Web Site:**

[www.mesa.k12.co.us](http://www.mesa.k12.co.us)

**Number of Users:**

23,000+

**Requirements:**

Authentication, Internet Filtering and Reporting

**Solutions:**

R3000 Internet Filter and Enterprise Reporter

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Ray Walls  
Senior Systems Engineer,  
Mesa County Valley School District

## Profile

Mesa County Valley School District (MCVSD) located in Grand Junction, Colorado, encompasses the area known as the Grand Valley, which includes the smaller communities surrounding Grand Junction. Neighboring the Grand Mesa (the world’s largest flat-top mountain), Grand Junction serves as the hub of business and recreational activities on the western slope of the Colorado Rockies, about 250 miles west across the mountains from Denver. Because of the quickly growing community, Mesa County Valley School District has been helping students reach their individual potential by providing not only a disciplined and nurturing environment, but one that is technologically advanced as well. As such, the district must ensure that school Internet-use is safe and productive for all students and staff.

## Challenge

With over 23,000 students and 5,000 workstations, securing student online safety is a pre-eminent goal for the network administrators at Mesa County Valley School District. Yet their previous filtering provider proved to be detrimental to this goal considering the number of hours that administrators actually spent on maintaining the filtering system. Ray Walls, Senior Systems Engineer, states, “Our previous filter was very slow and sluggish due to the fact that it was software-based.”

In addition, the school district’s previous filter had a faulty authentication system. “Our previous filter’s transparent authentication required a client piece to be installed on all workstations. It would error out on at least 25% of the workstations when trying to remotely install it from the content filter. Therefore, someone would have to go and physically touch each workstation to get it to install,” Says Mr. Walls. “There was also an extreme time lag between users. We ended up trying to use Web-based authentication but that didn’t work as well either.”

## Solutions

Overall, the IT team at Mesa County Valley School District found their previous filter’s basic problem was it did many things, but none of them really well. “It was like a Swiss-army knife—it was our firewall, bandwidth shaper, content and spam filter, but it performed poorly with in all of its jobs. We decided to go with M86’s Internet filtering and reporting appliances because the solution excels in its filtering and reporting functions,” says Mr. Walls.

“We’ve tried and tested many Internet content filtering solutions out there, but M86’s solutions are definitely the best... I would give the filtering and reporting an A+.”

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M86 offers scalable, high-performance filtering and flexible reporting designed to secure against Internet threats, ensure regulatory compliance and lower total cost of ownership. Optimized as a stand-alone appliance, the R3000 Internet filter and Enterprise Reporter free a school’s network of bottlenecks and downtime. With a single appliance capable of supporting over 30,000 users, M86 solutions integrate into any network seamlessly and reliably. “Unlike our previous filter that we had to reboot at least four times a day, we’ve only had to reboot the R3000 four times a year. That alone has saved us so much time and has allowed us to focus on our other job duties such as installing new student programs,” says Mr. Walls.

In addition, M86’s transparent authentication is one of the best in the filtering industry. Stored on the network server, the authenticator runs as soon as a student or teacher logs into the school’s network. Because it runs locally, it provides repudiation and gets a student’s or teacher’s user information real-time on the workstation. Therefore, no matter where that user goes on the network, he or she is being authenticated. Mr. Walls states, “We haven’t experienced any lag-time between users with the R3000’s authentication.”

## Result

“We’ve tried and tested many Internet content filtering solutions out there, but M86’s solutions are definitely the best,” says Mr. Walls. “Not only is the hardware filtering appliance so much faster and less troublesome than a software filter, but I would give the filtering and reporting an A+.”

## ABOUT M86 SECURITY

M86 Security is a global provider of Web and messaging security products, delivering comprehensive protection to more than 20,000 customers and over 16 million users worldwide. As one of the largest independent internet security companies, we have the expertise, product breadth and technology to protect organizations from both current and emerging threats. Our appliance, software and cloud-based solutions leverage real-time threat data to proactively secure customers’ networks from malware and spam; protect their sensitive information; and maintain employee productivity. The company is based in Orange, California with international headquarters in London and offices worldwide. For more information about M86 Security, please visit [www.m86security.com](http://www.m86security.com).

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#### Corporate Headquarters

828 West Taft Avenue  
Orange, CA 92865  
United States

Phone: +1 (714) 282-6111  
Fax: +1 (714) 282-6116

#### International Headquarters

Renaissance 2200  
Basing View, Basingstoke  
Hampshire RG21 4EQ  
United Kingdom

Phone: +44 (0) 1256 848080  
Fax: +44 (0) 1256 848060

#### Asia-Pacific

Suite 1, Level 1, Building C  
Millennium Centre  
600 Great South Road  
Auckland, New Zealand

Phone: +64 (0) 9 984 5700  
Fax: +64 (0) 9 984 5720

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