



# Modesto City Schools Deploys M86 to Block Proxies and Secure the Learning Environment Against Web Threats

## Client:

Modesto City Schools

## Web Site:

www.monet.k12.ca.us/mcsnew

## Number of Users:

23,000

## Requirements:

Web Filtering and Reporting, Invisible Authentication, Blocking Proxies

## Solutions:

M86 Web Filter and Reporter

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Stan Trevena  
Director of Information and  
Technology Services,  
Modesto City Schools

## Profile

Located 100 miles east of San Francisco in the Central Valley of California, Modesto City Schools serves a large and diverse population of nearly 33,000 students and approximately 3,000 staff members. Enrolled in programs reaching from infancy to adulthood, these students are as diverse as the State of California itself. Modesto City Schools strongly believes that staff and students alike must embrace the diversity of an increasingly complex world, foster mutual respect, and create a secure environment that supports student success.

## Challenge

As one of the larger and more diverse school districts in the state of California, Modesto City Schools is determined to maintain a safe and secure learning environment for both students and staff. However, previous to installing an Internet content filter, the school district was susceptible to students accessing hate, adult, obscene and social networking sites. Although CIPA clearly prohibits these sites being viewed at schools, the district was even more concerned that the education its students were receiving wasn't being marred by inappropriate and harmful Internet material. Because the Internet is a crucial component in today's education market, Modesto needed a secure Internet filter and reporter that would not only provide high performance filtering and require low maintenance, but also be fail-safe in filtering over 8,000 computers with 23,000 users.

## Solutions

When Stan Trevena, Director of Information and Technology Services at Modesto City Schools, first came on board the district's IT team, he became a key advocate for M86's Internet filtering and reporting solutions. “My network philosophy has always been to deploy the ‘best of breed’ solutions wherever possible. It is my belief that the M86 products are by far the best of breed when it comes to Internet filtering. That is the reason Modesto is on its third generation of M86 solutions.”

Modesto City Schools utilizes the M86 Web Filter and Reporter (M86 WFR) a scalable, high-speed filtering solution that easily integrates into any existing network infrastructure. Organized as a stand-alone appliance, the M86 WFR frees networks of bottlenecks and downtime. Without the constant requirement to manage filtering, IT staff can focus on mission critical projects, making their time more productive and cost effective. Mr. Trevena states, “The IT team at Modesto loves that the filter is an appliance and therefore runs in pass-by mode.”

“In a particularly messy case, I was told by our law firm that they’ve never worked with anyone in public or private that had the ability to slice and dice Internet access logs in so many ways to provide the level of detail that we can provide with the help of the M86 WFR. Overall, I don’t know of any product that comes close to doing what M86 does.”

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“This means there is very little impact on our bandwidth and requires zero configuration on the desktop. And because of the way it operates, the Blackberries that run through the Blackberry Enterprise Server (BES) are even filtered. The suite of options and different ways you can configure the filtering appliance allows it to blend into just about any topology.

“Since I manage the overall filtering for the district, and only have one technician doing day-to-day maintenance on the filter and reporter, I need a solution that is easy to deploy, manageable, and reliable. M86 has proven to be the ideal filtering solution,” says Mr. Trevena. In addition, the M86 WFR has helped eliminate problems the district was encountering with proxies. “We were in a constant battle with proxies—students were always finding new and ingenious ways to use them to access blocked sites. Thanks to the M86 WFR’s unique “Proxy Pattern Blocking” feature, we have almost entirely eliminated proxy access in our district.”

Mr. Trevena continues: “In addition, it is crucial that our Internet filtering and reporting solution ensures a safe and secure environment for our students and staff. In this regard, the M86 WFR is crucial to Modesto’s security.” It gives administrators complete management over user misuse of Internet access. It provides custom reports – across an entire network or down to a particular individual. Fast and efficient, the M86 WFR gives administrators the option of drilling down to specific data many ways, including sites, IP addresses, or categories.

## Conclusion

“I have been involved in many cases over the years involving Internet violations, and I seriously doubt that I could have proven these violations had I not been backed up by the logs and reports that the M86 WFR produces,” says Mr. Trevena. “In a particularly messy case, I was told by our law firm that they’ve never worked with anyone in public or private that had the ability to slice and dice Internet access logs in so many ways to provide the level of detail that we can provide with the help of the M86 WFR. Overall, I don’t know of any product that comes close to doing what M86 does.”

## 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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