



# M86 Security 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:

M86 Web Filter and M86 Security Reporter

“Both the M86 Web Filter and the M86 Security Reporter are straight forward 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 M86’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 emailing 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 M86 Web 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, M86 Web Filter is a stand-alone server that never allows the system to improperly interfere with Internet usage. This ensures stability and performance without compromising other server functions.

Its 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 M86 Web Filter features a Customer Feedback Module (CFM), which sends the most frequently visited non-categorized URLs from participating customers back to M86 on a daily basis. These URLs are reviewed and added to the M86 Web Filter Database.

Going hand-in-hand with the M86 Web Filter is the M86 Security Reporter — the industry's fastest and only dedicated Internet reporting appliance. Like the M86 Web Filter, filtering speed and other network functions are never compromised because it is a stand-alone server. It has been proven to handle substantial amounts of Internal traffic on the network and the pre-processing feature allows the M86 Security Reporter to store data in a format that facilitates high-speed data retrieval.

"What I especially like about the M86 Web Filter," 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 M86 Web Filter 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 M86 Web Filter and the M86 Security Reporter are straight forward and uncomplicated tools, delivering first-rate performance."

## 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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