

CASE INFORMATION

Customer: Walters State Community College

Location: Morristown, TN

Challenges:

- Undefined security posture
- Resolving attacks individually
- Aging hodgepodge of hardware



Case Study: Improving a community college's security posture with Cisco Technology

Higher education is in the top five industries that are most likely to be attacked by cyber criminals—and they are one of the most vulnerable. Internetnetwork Engineering recently worked with Walters State Community College to design and implement a Cisco-powered security solution that will provide an automated security foundation that can adapt to cyber threats for years to come.

The situation, needs, and challenges

Over the last two years, Walters State saw an increase in malware, viruses, and phishing threats due to aging hardware from multiple vendors. Along with offering no room for growth, it was difficult to manage, and was not meeting the needs of the campus. They were attempting to resolve each attack individually, but quickly realized they needed an all-encompassing solution to improve their overall security posture. But like any organization, they didn't know what they didn't know. Walters State needed an expert partner to assess their current security landscape and propose a way to expand and enhance their cyber threat management capabilities. They contacted Internetnetwork Engineering (IE).

IE worked with Walters State technicians to assess the existing security infrastructure and explore a more holistic solution that would enable their IT team to quickly identify and contain malware and phishing threats. There were three outcomes Walters State wanted to achieve:



Defined security posture

Create solid foundation to handle today's security threats



Simplified security landscape

Streamline firewall/IPS policy management and improve redundancy



Enhanced insight into threats

Leverage dashboards, reporting, alerts, and integrated issue logging

Internetnetwork Engineering's solution

Thanks to the in-depth assessment, IE's solution provided Walters State a solid security infrastructure that would protect them as a higher education institution. They would also be in a better position to respond quickly to the security needs of their campus community in the BYOD environment higher education demands.

The solution also simplified the security architecture. IE replaced several separate pieces of hardware with a Cisco technology that provided dashboards, reporting, alerts, and integrated logging. Its single pane interface streamlined management allowing Walters State technicians to see identified security issues and respond appropriately from a single location.

IE improved Walters State's security posture and enabled them to:



Enhance insight into potential threats in the ever-changing cyber security landscape



Move from simplified firewall rules with one-off fixes to an automated, holistic approach to security



Resolve issues and threats that they did not even know they had



Manage top-priority threats without dedicated, round-the-clock security professionals

The results and ultimate benefits

Walters State saw immediate results. Once the system went live, multiple items were being blocked and quarantined allowing their technicians to identify systems compromised by malware, apply web filters, and restrict access to specific websites based on their classifications. They continue to see how much more secure they are than their higher education counterparts who are having security issues they no longer experience. Additionally, they can confidently educate their faculty, students, and other institutions about security threats, how to identify them, and what they are doing to protect their systems and devices.

Internetnetwork Engineering provided the expertise and support Walters State needed to implement a complex solution they didn't have the resources to do alone. The attention to detail throughout the planning process, implementation, and post-implementation support ensured the project went smoothly and immediately improved Walters State's ability to manage the security of their network.

"We have used IE in the past and just seeing the professionalism, expertise and how they have implemented other successful projects - they are able to hit a home run, time and time again."

-CISO, Walters State Community College

Results realized:

1. Secured a growing BYOD campus
2. Centralized dashboards for enhanced monitoring
3. Faster security issue resolution
4. Simplified security architecture
5. Major decrease in phishing and malware attacks

See what Internetnetwork Engineering can do for you

Through the perfect combination of people, partners, and process, IE delivers customized technology solutions that align with your goals to accelerate your transformation.

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