The Organization

Pulaski County Special
School District
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Serving the Little Rock, Arkansas metropolitan area, the Pulaski County Special School District (PCSSD) is an innovative education system dedicated to ensuring academic excellence for nearly 18,000 students. The district supports approximately 1,500 teachers and administrators at over 40 separate sites.

Recently, PCSSD added a SonicWALL® E-Class Network Security Appliance (NSA) E6500, a SonicWALL Aventail Secure Remote Access E-Class EX-1600, a SonicWALL Continuous Data Protection (CDP) 6080, and a SonicWALL Global Management System (GMS) solution to their existing deployment of SonicWALL PRO and NSA Series firewalls. SonicWALL spoke with Jimmy Hogg, Assistant Director of Network and Computer Operations, about PCSSD's unique security needs, and how the district is successfully addressing these issues with SonicWALL solutions.

Q.: *What security features are you applying with the NSA E6500 at your network gateway?*
A.: We're applying SonicWALL's gateway anti-virus, anti-spyware, intrusion prevention, and Application Firewall services on our SonicWALL firewalls. This secures not only inbound traffic, but also site-to-site VPN traffic between our administrative offices and schools.

Q.: *Please explain how you have combined your SonicWALL firewalls with the EX-1600 to create a Clean VPN environment.*
A.: With our Clean VPN configuration, once remote users are securely connected over SSL VPN, we can apply the same inbound and outbound firewall features as if they were on the local network. We are also using the SonicWALL Enforced Anti-virus Client on over 6,000 workstations to ensure they have updated anti-virus and anti-spyware protection before they are allowed to access resources.

Q.: *What about remote end points using SSL VPN?*
A.: Previously, we used terminal services to provide staff at home or at conferences with remote access to the network, but it wasn't very secure. We also have vendors who need secure remote access. The EX-1600 makes sure any remote device has the latest updated protection before letting the user on the SSL VPN.

Q.: *In what ways has the EX-1600 made your job easier?*
A.: Our users needed easy and secure remote access, but we didn't want to have to load software on their remote computers. Now we just point them to a Web portal and they can safely link to all the resources they need. Its letting us sleep a little better at night knowing they're secure.

Q.: *How has it made your end user's jobs easier?*
A.: They see an easy interface that makes their desktop look like they're at work, without having to load extra applications or get IT help.

Q.: *How are you controlling inappropriate student Web activity?*
A.: We use SonicWALL Application Firewall to deter use of proxy downloads of music and video, along with access to gaming and social networking sites by limiting bandwidth available for these file types.

Q.: *How do you manage security over the district's distributed network?*
A.: GMS lets us manage over 40 SonicWALL appliances distributed at over 40 locations across 730 square miles. We are able to push firmware updates, back up configuration files, and manage each appliance and all their feature sets from one console. The GMS also provides us a centralized reporting database that documents all firewall activity for regulatory compliance. The capability of managing all our firewalls from one console is priceless and saves us countless staff hours.

Q.: *How are you supporting disaster recovery planning with your CDP solution?*
A.: We have used SonicWALL Bare Metal Recovery to restore several servers to different device platforms. For example, we recently restored a mission-critical HP ProLiant DL380 G4 series server to an older model HP ProLiant ML370 G4 with great success.

Q.: *How are you looking to use SonicWALL solutions going forward?*
A.: We will be evaluating SonicWALL SonicPoint wireless access points for a Clean Wireless deployment. We are also considering using CDP over SSL VPN to back up mobile laptops used by our senior staff members. And we're also looking into SonicWALL Email Security.

Q.: *What advice do you have for other professionals looking for similar solutions?*
A.: I'd definitely recommend SonicWALL solutions. The EX-1600 in particular worked very well for us, was very user friendly, and was up and running quickly without problems.

Case Study Solution Spotlight

SonicWALL E-Class Network Security Appliance (NSA) E6500
The SonicWALL E-Class Network Security Appliance (NSA) E6500 is engineered to combat the evolving threats to the enterprise network by providing administrators with a high performance, scalable, multifunction threat prevention appliance. Leveraging specialized multi-core processing technology, the NSA E6500 combines parallel traffic processing with SonicWALL's Re-Assembly free Deep Packet Inspection™ engine.

SonicWALL Aventail E-Class Secure Remote Access (SRA) EX-1600
SonicWALL Aventail E-Class SRAs provide complete application access with full security, control of the end point and unified policy management. Easy to use and control, SonicWALL Aventail E-Class SRAs increase productivity by providing employees and partners with secure, clientless access to the resources they need from any device, anywhere, with unmatched security.

SonicWALL Continuous Data Protection (CDP) 6080
The SonicWALL Continuous Data Protection (CDP) 6080 is ideal for medium-sized organizations demanding higher performance and capacity, offering automatic disk-based backup and recovery for multiple workstations and server applications, capacity extensible from 4.5-9 TB (at 2:1 compression), flexible disaster recovery options, RAID 5, and replaceable drives and power supplies.

SonicWALL Global Management System (GMS)
The SonicWALL Global Management System (GMS) provides organizations, distributed enterprises and service providers with a flexible, powerful and intuitive solution to centrally manage and rapidly deploy SonicWALL appliances and security policy configurations. SonicWALL GMS also provides centralized real-time monitoring, and comprehensive policy and compliance reporting.

SONICWALL®