The Ohio State University scales up with Sophos

Division of Arts and Humanities sticks with Sophos as the network grows

Customer-at-a-glance
Ohio State University,
United States

Industry
Education

Sophos solutions
Three Sophos UTM Appliances on campus; a UTM 625 to protect the network, a UTM 320 in an offsite computer lab and a UTM 220 at a remote office location.

About the customer

The Ohio State University is home to is home to more than 59,000 students, a nationally ranked football and basketball team and is one of the best public research universities in the country. The Division of Arts and Humanities includes 19 buildings and over 4,000 students and faculty members. The division is dedicated to the study of world history, cultures, languages, literature, music, dance, art and design.

A new problem

Director of Information Technology for the Division of Arts and Humanities within the College of Arts and Sciences at The Ohio State University, Tim Smith deployed a Sophos UTM 525 and UTM 220 appliance on the college's network back in 2006. "With the Sophos appliances, we experienced greater productivity, reduced risk and costs savings," said Smith.

While Smith was happy with the performance, the college's rapid growth through mergers and organic growth meant The Ohio State University would need a security product that could offer more power than the 525 appliance. "We were adding the Arts department to our network, which basically doubled the size of our network," explained Smith.

The requirements

Most of the university's requirements for a security product had not changed since Smith first looked into Sophos UTM. They still needed a fully integrated security solution that would offer virus and spyware protection, consolidate and filter network traffic from multiple buildings and was simple to manage. However, they now needed a faster model that could handle the increase in network traffic the college's growth would bring.

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>
> William Strucke, Systems Manager at The Ohio State University

The new solution

Smith decided to add an another Sophos UTM appliance to his network security configuration.

"I was happy with the Sophos product as it was still providing the productivity increase and network protection we needed. So, when it came time to increase our configuration we didn't look at any other products," explained Smith. With the new implementation the Division of Arts and Humanities now has three Sophos UTM appliances on campus; a 625 to protect the network, a 320 in an offsite computer lab and a 220 at a remote office location.

More success with Sophos

The Sophos UTM 625 appliance now protects over 2,500 individuals and 19 buildings at The Ohio State University and filters approximately 200 gigabytes of traffic each day. Additionally, Sophos UTM stops approximately 40-50 viruses at the border a day, saving Smith and William Strucke, systems manager time from having to diagnose and cure these issues. "The transition between the 525 and 625 appliance was completely seamless. None of our users were aware of the change as it didn't halt or adversely affect network traffic or connectivity in anyway," said Strucke.

The 625 appliance has helped reduce the number of help desk calls and made Smith feel the network is even more secure than it was before. Smith continued, "The increased power provided by the Sophos UTM 625 and the ability to handle the additional network traffic were exactly what we were looking for. We were happy with Sophos UTM before and we continue to be pleased with its performance. We would definitely choose the Sophos UTM appliance to protect our network if we had it to do again."

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