SOPHOS

simple **+** secure

Sophos is as easy as ABC for **Vermilion Library** IT Administrator
Parish library conserves bandwidth and protects users with the Sophos UTM appliance

Customer-at-a-glance
Vermilion Library

Industry
Public institution

Sophos solutions
Sophos UTM with content filter and application control

About the customer

The Vermilion Parish Library serves a total population of approximately 53,000 as an educational, cultural and informational center for area residents. Our purpose and objective is to provide the residents of Vermilion Parish with access to books, other resources and services for their education, information and recreational needs and we have been doing so since 1942. With five branches spanning across the parish, our patrons always have a convenient place to get their books, information and technology needs met. Our new main branch in Abbeville provides a 200 person capacity public meeting room along with 20 computers open to the public.

The challenge

With approximately 4,000 computer log-ins a month and over 50,000 people within Vermilion Parish, the Vermilion Parish Library needs to control Internet usage and access. Grant Domingue, IT systems administrator for Vermilion Library needs to ensure computer users at the library aren't downloading programs or accidently downloading viruses. And, he needs to block content that isn't appropriate for viewing at the library.
"In addition to our normal computer area, we have four computers designated for children's use. All of these computers need to have content filters on them, but we can't take any risks with the children's computers," said Domingue.

The requirements

Given the public usage of all the library's computers, in addition to the computers designated for librarian and employee usage, Domingue requires a solution that allows him to easily set up user groups and rules.

"Sophos UTM has turned out to be a treat for me as an IT manager."

Grant Domingue, IT systems administrator, Vermilion Parish Library

The solution

Vermilion Parish Library already had a Sophos UTM appliance in place when Domingue took over as the IT Systems Administrator. He has never worked with Sophos UTM before and was curious to see how it worked.

Domingue continued, "Learning how to use the Sophos UTM appliance was a snap, which left me with time to pursue and figure out other activities at the library. I plan on using the home use version at my home because I liked the functionality and ease-of-use so much."

Success with Sophos

Using the Sophos UTM appliance, Domingue was able to set up and manage user groups. This ensures that computers designated for general public use do not have the ability to download programs, while computers used by Domingue and select other employees can.

"A lot of firewalls make it possible to prevent downloading. But, creating exceptions for different user groups can be difficult. Sophos UTM made it much easier to add exceptions, making my job easier," said Domingue.

Because the library has a limited number of computers for use by the entire Parish, they also recently began blocking access to sites like Facebook and MySpace. This way, they could limit the amount of time users spend on the computer so everyone has a chance to use it when needed.

In addition to easily setting up user groups and blocking content, Domingue has been using the Sophos UTM appliance to gain insight into network performance and usage. In one specific instance, he noticed a lot of CPU usage that didn't seem to make sense. Sophos UTM made it easy to find the issue and then solve it without

much effort. Now, the library is making the most of their bandwidth.

Domingue concluded, "Sophos UTM has turned out to be a treat for me as an IT manager. The product has been easy to use and utilize. And, technical support, including the user forums, is always very helpful."

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