

The Organization

Success Charter Network
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The Challenge

Manage secure academic network and e-mail environments, while facing an aggressive growth plan and limited resources

The SonicWALL Solution

- SonicWALL E-Class Network Security Appliance (NSA) E5500
- SonicWALL NSA 3500 appliances
- SonicWALL Email Security appliance

The Results

- Increased network security performance and uptime
- Greater spam-blocking effectiveness
- Tighter filtering to block inappropriate content

Success Charter Network®, a charter management organization (CMO), is dedicated to academic excellence in all subject areas, character development, and extracurricular achievement with college graduation as an end goal. Success Charter Network opened its flagship Harlem Success Academy Charter School in August 2006 with 150 kindergartners and first graders from the Harlem community. Now with four school locations, Success Charter Network is rapidly expanding to various high-need neighborhoods throughout New York City. To achieve its goals, Success Charter Network is leveraging SonicWALL® technology to provide secure academic tools for both its staff and students.

The challenge: greater security, ease-of-use and expandability

Currently, the Success Charter Network has approximately 140 staff members using Apple® MacBooks, and 60 roving student MacBooks on two mobile computer labs. The network traffic includes the FirstClass Collaboration Suite, enterprise level online testing and tutoring suites, cross-school filesharing via AFP, a number of proprietary FileMaker database applications, and the organization's cutting edge teacher development tool – EduTube® – a web-based application that allows teachers to upload recorded lessons for all staff members to then search and stream via a YouTube® inspired PHP and SQL based web site. Previously, Success Charter used a Cisco® PIX for network security and a hosted Microsoft® Exchange service for e-mail security.

"With our growth, we began having difficulties managing our security using the low-end Cisco device and the hosted e-mail services", said Bryan Winther, Director of Information and Communications Technology for the Success Charter Network. "We needed greater ease-of-use and expandability."

At the same time, Winther needed a more reliable e-mail security solution.

"There were many instances where we were worried that important and time sensitive e-mails had not been sent or had been bounced," said Winther

Winther needed to consider the best options for managing secure network and e-mail environments, while facing an aggressive growth plan and limited resources.

The solution: SonicWALL E-Class NSA, PRO, and Email Security appliances

After evaluating comparable Cisco and SonicWALL network security solutions, Winther chose SonicWALL.

"SonicWALL provided a very cost-effective and feature-rich solution," said Winther.

To assist in his SonicWALL deployments, Winther turned to Webistix, Inc., a leading Managed Service Provider and Sonicwall Gold Reseller.

"We recognized the challenges that Success Charter Network was facing", said Vincent DiSpigno, CEO, Webistix. "We were able to provide them with a range of solutions that their previous service provider simply couldn't."

Success Charters Case Study

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—Bryan Winther
Director of Information and
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Success Charter Network

SonicWALL Benefits

- Re-assembly Free Deep Packet Inspection™ and multi-threat protection
- Powerful multi-core platform performance
- Simplified management
- Flexible, scalable deployment
- SonicWALL GRID Network



Webistix deployed a SonicWALL E-Class Network Security Appliance (NSA) E5500 as a gateway network security appliance for Success Charter Network's six Apple Quad Xeon 64-bit Xserve servers, and a SonicWALL NSA 3500 appliance at each of its four school locations, connected over 100 Mbps Metro Ethernet.

The SonicWALL E-Class Network Security Appliance (NSA) E5500 is a high performance, multi-service network security platform, combining a Re-assembly Free Deep Packet Inspection™ engine with 8-core parallel-processing architecture to deliver exceptional protection and performance, lower management complexity and unrivalled value. The SonicWALL NSA 3500 is a multi-service security platform delivering solid network protection coupled with fast, secure VPN access for remote employees.

Additionally, Webistix implemented a SonicWALL Email Security Appliance to secure all inbound and outbound e-mail traffic. This award-winning anti-spam, anti-virus, anti-phishing, policy, and compliance management e-mail protection solution self-updates every five minutes with current spam protection based on the SonicWALL GRID network's daily evaluation of millions of business e-mails worldwide, while taking less than 10 minutes a week to manage.

"We offered Success Charter Network a vision of how they could deploy SonicWALL solutions to quickly scale without compromising security" added DeSpigno.

The result: scalable and reliable high-performance security

"Working with Webistix has been fantastic," said Winther, "and our network stability is excellent. The change from our earlier environment has been amazing."

Winther has noted greater performance and enhanced security with his SonicWALL network security solutions.

Winther has also received significant benefits from SonicWALL Email Security.

"Previously, it was impossible to supply white list entries, or to check if incoming mail had hit the box," said Winther. "With SonicWALL, we now have granular control over our e-mail handling process. We can ensure that messages from our board members and other VIP senders are always received in a timely manner."

The future: expanding to 40 charter schools over the next decade

Now with four school locations, Success Charter Network intends to expand to 40 schools throughout New York City over the next decade.

"Right now we just have K-3 at our flagship school and K-1 at our other new schools," said Winther, "but we're planning on going up to 8th grade with the opening our first middle school within the next two years. It's pretty exciting."

Winther intends to secure these future sites with SonicWALL. "We plan to replicate our current installations."

The enhanced security of SonicWALL also enables Winther to safely extend new technology tools to students.

"SonicWALL Content Filtering will allow us to give our students the ability to use interactive whiteboard technology without stumbling across inappropriate materials," said Winther.

"I've kind of seen first-hand how public education systems can ineffectively apply their technology budgets," said Winther. "With SonicWALL and Webistix, I've made sure we're getting the best technology value."

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