

BITDEFENDER MAXIMIZES CAMPUS-WIDE DATA PROTECTION

The Pingle School is the seat of learning to over 1,500 pupils aged from 11 to 19, located in Swadlincote, Derbyshire, UK. The school itself has been established since 1965 and has built up a significant IT capability in recent years, with some 580 PCs distributed across two networks. IT Manager Ray Humphrey explains how his two-man team's response to challenges has been an education in itself.

THE CHALLENGE

Humphrey joined Pingle in 2002 when the school only had 135 PCs, supported by an infrastructure that had frequent failures and ran at low capacity.

"My mission was to manage the upgrade and take this resource forward to meet the future requirements of the school. On reflection we've come on in leaps and bounds" Humphrey said, "developing step-by-step as finances have allowed."

Today there are two separate networks on site – one supporting the school curriculum and one for administration users – and although Humphrey thought their previous security software appeared to be doing a reasonable job, there

were lingering issues. Humphrey recalls "We found it a chore to get on top of viruses. It did what it was supposed to do but we found it wasn't proactive enough – and I didn't like the user interface. As technicians we tend to be interested in exploring other options and in this case we thought it best to look elsewhere when the existing three-year contract was up for renewal late last year."

THE SOLUTION

Around the same time that the school made the decision to look at other options for their security needs, Humphrey was contacted by a third-party consultant who suggested BitDefender as a more effective, user-friendly solution. "We invited them over to demonstrate the product. The interface was much easier to use than the existing solution we had in place and BitDefender had additional features and functionality above and beyond a traditional antivirus product."

"During our trial of the BitDefender software on a few internal systems, we found it to be much more proactive in finding malware and cookies than our previous provider. We were also quoted a lower price compared to what we were paying – so we put forward our recommendation and the head teacher backed-up our decision to make the change," maintained Humphrey.



The Pingle School

The Pingle School is situated in Swadlincote, Derbyshire UK with 1,500 pupils aged from 11 to 19. It is a co-educational, foundation comprehensive school which has gained Specialist Status in Maths and Computing.

At The Pingle School, basic information about pupils is held on computer to assist with the efficient organization of the school and individuals' educational needs. Therefore, The Pingle School needs to fully comply with the requirements and principles of the Data Protection Act 1998 in order to protect this sensitive data from unauthorized access.



THE RESULT

In addition to proactive malware detection, features such as WMI scripting allowed the school to streamline maintenance procedures automatically on remote systems – including configuration changes to further enhance security. Libraries of preconfigured WMI scripts are provided within the BitDefender solution, while any not included can be easily created by the school technicians using the standards based scripting language or downloaded from the Web. Humphrey comments “Routines are provided to allow the network administrator to request an inventory of all software applications running on individual machine. Maintenance tasks include a full network scan and power off. We also used a WMI script to automate the roll-out of the BitDefender software to the client machines.”



Leveraging the power of the WMI-based system management scripts meant that removing the old software and updating hundreds of machines with new software could be controlled remotely from one PC and implemented room-by-room - saving considerable man hours in the process. Next were the 100 staff laptops, which needed to be called in and re-installed without causing disruption to the daily curriculum as there were lessons to be planned, along with the myriad ways teachers rely on technology in the twenty-first century classroom. The Implementation went smoothly.

THE CONCLUSION

The Pingle School fully intends to give their students access to the most contemporary and appropriate equipment available, with plans already in place to roll-out Windows 7 across the network. Apple Macs are also joining the mix, following the music department’s decision to buy fifteen iMacs. Humphrey – and BitDefender for that matter – are ready for this mixed platform approach.

“A key feature to help minimize outbreaks is the reporting via email - which we find works really well for us - as it tells me exactly where we’re finding malware infections.” He adds “this is especially useful for picking up malware problems resulting from the use of USB sticks, which are a potentially vulnerable part of any mass-user system.” Humphrey concludes “What matters to us is keeping the system running and the data secure – that is paramount. That comes down to the product - but also reliability - and BitDefender plays a key role in ensuring this.”

ABOUT BITDEFENDER

BitDefender is the creator of one of the industry’s fastest and most effective lines of internationally certified security software. Since inception in 2001, BitDefender has continued to raise the bar and set new standards in proactive threat prevention. Every day, BitDefender protects tens of millions of home and corporate users across the globe - giving them the peace of mind of knowing that their digital experiences will be secure. BitDefender solutions are distributed by a global network of value-added distribution and reseller partners in more than 100 countries worldwide.

More information is available at www.bitdefender.com

BitDefender LLC
sales@bitdefender.com
www.bitdefender.com