

Graland Country Day School

EDUCATION

Graland Country Day School needed to improve its network access control to deal with a range of users that include small children, teens, staff, parents and guests. After an exhaustive evaluation process it chose Sophos NAC Advanced, which it complemented with two other Sophos solutions to protect its endpoint computers and email infrastructure.



Key facts

Organization

Graland Country Day School,
Denver, Colorado

Users

700 +

Sophos solutions

NAC Advanced
Endpoint Security and Control
Email Security and Control

Business challenge

Graland Country Day School is one of the leading technology schools in North America, with nearly 50 percent of its students going on to study at some of the most competitive colleges and universities in the United States. The school, whose current campus is spread across nine buildings, is based in Denver, Colorado, and was founded in 1924. There are over 600 students and approximately 100 faculty and staff members.

The school was challenged with streamlining network access for an extremely diverse constituency, ranging from faculty and staff, kindergartners, teens and parents, as well as

other periodic guests. The school also wanted to restrict its network assets to authorized users only, while allowing guests to have internet access.

At the same time the school's IT staff had lost confidence in its other security solutions, and together with Sophos channel partner Network System Architects Inc (NASi), decided to undertake an evaluation of its entire system.

"Sophos's pre- and post-sales support was fantastic."

Graland Country Day School.

Technology solution

As part of the evaluation Graland looked at how Sophos NAC Advanced assessed the health of its network. It found that the solution did this through a series of comprehensive reports, and used the assessment to build and refine its security policy with stakeholders. Full end-user participation ensured that any computers that were non-compliant with this new policy were quickly fixed.

They also evaluated the Sophos Email Appliance, part of Sophos Email Security and Control, which took just 60 minutes to implement. The next day, there was zero spam in faculty inboxes and a quick review of the solution's dashboard showed that 20,000 spam emails had been blocked overnight. Of the remaining email, just 0.07 percent was delivered with a negligible amount of false-positives quarantined.

In addition to Sophos NAC Advanced and Sophos Email Security and Control, Graland also chose Sophos Endpoint Security and Control to secure its computers, which protects desktops and laptops from malware and unauthorized applications. Put together, all three Sophos solutions provided Graland with complete security over its IT infrastructure.

Sophos's active interest in Graland's security needs was instrumental in the school's final decision, as was its multi-year bundled pricing, which includes round-the-clock technical support.



Business results

The installation of Sophos NAC Advanced was straightforward thanks to its seamless Active Directory integration. It also took only one day to discover that numerous viruses were missed by Graland's previous anti-virus solution, which was removed and replaced using the Sophos Competitor Removal Tool.

The NSAI team worked in conjunction with Graland's IT staff to perform the installation, selecting the most appropriate options based on the school's needs, and ensuring that it had the information needed to manage its IT environment. As a result, Graland now has visibility into the health of all of its endpoint computers and has complete control of its valuable data assets.

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