

CASE STUDY

Using Sophos technologies, **Harrison School District Two (HSD2)** has met Colorado's strict new off-campus web filtering requirements. This has allowed them to move forward with their own innovative student take-home laptop program. By implementing Sophos client-based filtering, the district has simplified and improved management, while gaining the flexibility to deploy iPads or other non-Windows devices in the future.

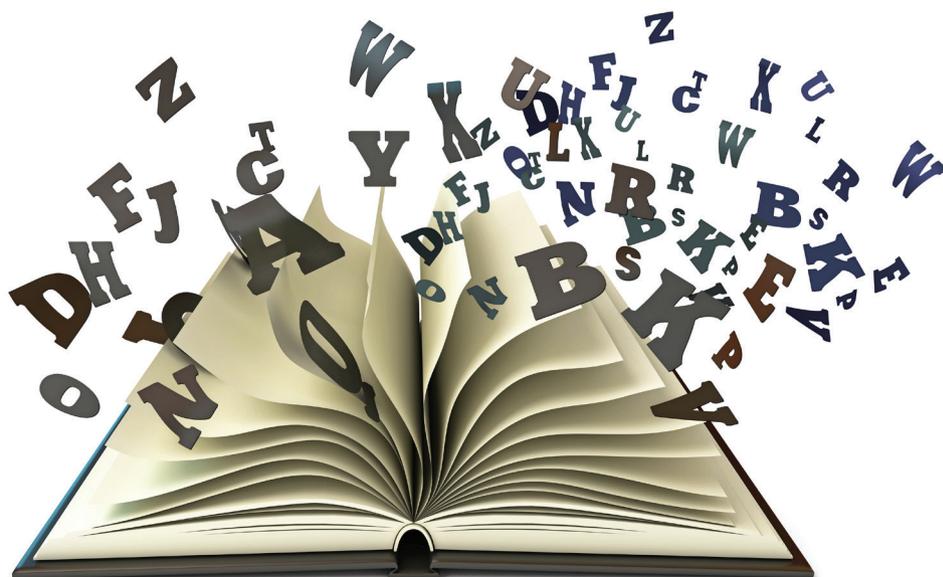
Customer-at-a-Glance

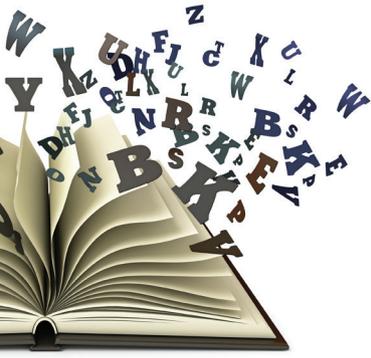
Harrison School District Two
Colorado Springs, CO

Industry
Education

Sophos Solutions
Complete Security Suite (Endpoint, Web, Mobile, Email and Encryption)

Number of Users
10,000 students and 1,600 staff





HSD2 has gained national prominence as a pioneer in improving instructional quality. Among the district's goals: to help students improve their information literacy, problem solving, critical thinking and reasoning skills. To support these goals, the district pursues new and better ways to apply technology inside and outside the classroom.

"Sophos has kept us very safe, with no downtime—and now they've helped us meet the law and move forward."

ZACH MATHER,
Interim Director of Technology,
Harrison School District Two

Business Challenge

To give students full access to modern learning resources, HSD2 issues "take-home" laptops. But HSD2 faced a challenge. A new state law (Colorado HB12-1240 Section 55) requires 24/7 web filtering of school computing devices, even off campus.

HSD2 could have restricted laptops to school buildings, filtering them through its network. But, says Interim IT Director Zach Mather, this wouldn't serve its educational goals, which rely on working with parents to make learning central to students' lives at home.

HSD2 therefore faced a choice. They could move to Microsoft security tools through its Microsoft licensing agreement. Or they could upgrade to a Sophos security suite with client-based filtering.

"We've been very happy with Sophos antivirus," says Mather. "Could we justify continuing to pay Sophos when we could get some of that value for free through Microsoft?"

Looking forward, however, Sophos offered several advantages that Microsoft didn't. Crucially, Sophos' suites support non-Microsoft devices—especially HSD2's iPads. "Educational technology is changing fast," says Mather. "We're entering an exciting new age in how we can teach. Sophos gives us flexibility to apply all this innovation."



Technology Solution

HSD2 upgraded to the Sophos Educational Suite, gaining access to comprehensive web filtering. And it all works through the latest version of the Sophos endpoint clients they already relied on for antivirus. They also gained access to patch management and many other valuable capabilities. All these features are centrally administrated through the Sophos Management Console, which can be fully integrated with HSD2's Active Directory.

"Sophos' centralized antivirus management has been immensely helpful to us for years," says Mather. "We can look at the console's data, determine what's going on, and do nearly all of our troubleshooting centrally. I've worked in places where you had to go on site to troubleshoot all the time. I dealt with that by convincing them to move to Sophos."

"Now that we've cleaned up our own Active Directory," adds Mather, "we're increasingly moving to integrate Sophos with it. That will allow us to use policies to manage security even more efficiently."

Sophos' suite includes Sophos Mobile Control, and Mather sees this as another major opportunity to add value.

HSD2 already uses iPads to support its cutting-edge classroom assessment processes. "Those iPads are locked down to run no apps, except for a browser that's used to take the assessments. Right now, configuring these iPads is a very manual process. They must be individually plugged into MacBooks to sync them and enforce security. Since this is so cumbersome, we don't use these iPads for anything else all year. With Sophos Mobile Control, we'll be able to apply an assessment profile while we're doing assessments. Then, once we're done, we can apply a different profile so they can be used all year in our classrooms. That'll be a huge benefit."

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Business Results

From pre-K through high school, HSD2's IT organization must efficiently protect nearly 13,500 students and staff. Sophos helps make this possible by enabling the district to gain more value from its existing iPads and establishing a strong foundation for tomorrow's applications.

Before becoming Interim Director of IT, Mather served as both network engineer and net admin. So he has a profound real-world understanding of school IT security. Summarizing several years of experience with Sophos, he says, "It works. It's a 'known good' solution that lets us focus on other things. Every system needs some attention at some point. But Sophos is the one we have to worry about least."

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protect your organization.

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