



CASE STUDY

Praktijkschool Helmond, a school for special-needs children in the Netherlands, has been able to eliminate malware and spam intrusions in its environment through a comprehensive security solution provided by Sophos Platinum Solutions partner Aragorn BV.



Customer-at-a-Glance

Praktijkschool Helmond

Industry

Education

Sophos Solutions

Sophos UTM

Sophos Complete Security Suite

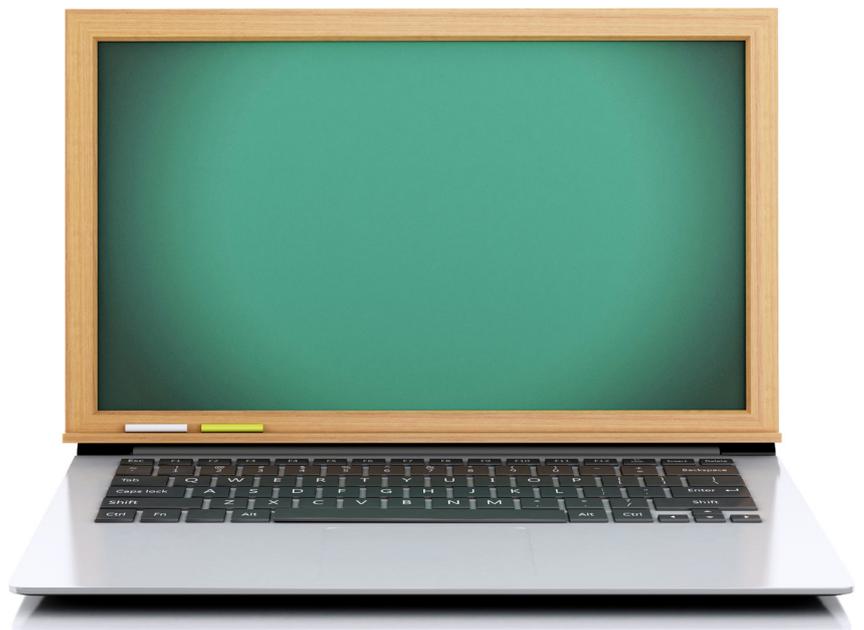
Sophos Web Protection

Sophos Wi-Fi Access Points



Partner-at-a-Glance

Aragorn ICT Dienstverlening





Praktijkschool Helmond is a school for children with intellectual disabilities based in Helmond, Netherlands. Serving students from age 12 to 19, the school maintains an IT network of more than 70 workstations and over 250 user accounts.

“With Sophos and Aragorn, we’ve gone from an outdated solution that offered limited protection to a comprehensive, all-in-one security platform that is 100 percent effective.”

PAUL VERHEES
IT Manager
Praktijkschool Helmond

Business Challenge

As IT manager of Praktijkschool Helmond, Paul Verhees is responsible for maintaining the security of the network – which includes protecting student and faculty accounts from spam and malware attacks. When the school outgrew its previous firewall solution based on Windows 2003, Verhees launched a search for an upgrade. “Our former firewall was not easy to manage, and it did not provide comprehensive protection. It was allowing too much spam to enter the network, and it unfortunately failed to protect us from several botnet attacks that were quite difficult and time-consuming to remove,” he explains. “As a result, we knew we needed a strong, reliable, and comprehensive solution, but also easy to manage.”

In addition, Praktijkschool Helmond was facing a security challenge common to primary schools everywhere – a need to protect its students from malicious or inappropriate websites and email phishing scams, and to protect the network from malware introduced by student activity. With each student assigned a school email account, this challenge became more complex as an increasing number of students brought their own devices to school and used them to log onto the network. “A strong Web and spam filtering capability has become extremely important to us, including the ability to blacklist certain inappropriate sites to keep students from accessing them,” Verhees adds.



Technology Solution

To meet these requirements, Praktijkschool Helmond turned to Aragorn BV, a Dutch IT consulting firm that has been supporting the school for more than 10 years. As a sole Sophos Platinum Solution partner in the South of The Netherlands and a believer in the Sophos technology, Aragorn recommended Sophos network and endpoint security.

Working with Aragorn, Verhees has implemented Sophos UTM and the Sophos Complete Security Suite – combining endpoint, data, email, Web, server and mobile protection in a single license. In addition, the school has deployed multiple Sophos AP30 Wi-Fi Access Points to provide iron-clad security for all of the school's wireless networks. "We have six wi-fi channels – one each for students, teachers, guests, an in-school church, a first aid organization, and a music club – and the Access Points allow us to manage each one with its own security policies," Verhees notes. "Any one of these channels could be a possible weak link in our security chain, but the access points provide us the reliability and peace of mind that our network is completely secure."

In the three years since Praktijkschool Helmond implemented Sophos UTM, the school has not had a single malware attack with spam being completely eliminated from the network. Verhees reports that the system is completely reliable and easy to manage, an important asset as he is the school's single IT resource. Going forward, Praktijkschool Helmond will continue to build out its Sophos security infrastructure to support the school's growth as well as students' ever-expanding use of the Web and mobile devices.

"With Sophos and Aragorn, we've gone from an outdated solution that offered limited protection to a comprehensive, all-in-one security platform that is 100 percent effective," Verhees remarks. "The products are remarkably easy to install and use. In fact, we were able to get Sophos UTM installed and in production in only one day with assistance from Aragorn."

A Security Partnership for the Long Haul

Praktijkschool Helmond began working with Aragorn a decade ago to install the school's first network, and today the partnership is an essential asset for Verhees. With headquarters in Eindhoven, Aragorn provides comprehensive IT consulting and help desk support for businesses and organizations up to 500 workstations with a specialty in Windows environments.

"Endpoint, network, and server security is a large and growing focus for our business, and we are known for our ability to craft solutions that meet our clients' unique requirements – whether it's security in the cloud or on-premise systems in a more traditional environment such as Praktijkschool Helmond," comments Nico Jansen, CEO, Aragorn. "Together with Sophos we're able to position ourselves as experts in the IT security market. Sophos shares our philosophy that security is about much more than simply delivering antivirus licenses, but requires a comprehensive approach to the security challenges that organizations face every day."

Verhees concludes, "From the beginning, Aragorn has offered not only solid advice on the best solutions for our environment, but 100-percent reliable support. They've shown they scale to meet our needs as our school continues to grow, which means migrating to cloud security when the time comes. Aragorn and Sophos are important extensions of my team, and I know they will go the extra mile to provide the solutions we need to protect our students, faculty, and network into the future."



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IT Manager
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