Penola Catholic College Dramatically Improves Internet Accessibility and Reliability with a BYOD-ready Solution

A Melbourne Catholic Education College with 1,640 students is using CyberHound's unique solution to protect and educate students, while enabling the College to embrace online collaboration and learning tools. The solution is being used across two campuses and has had an incredibly positive impact on the reliability of the internet and the ability for the school to embrace online learning tools.

The award-winning solution manages all internet and social media use for everyone within the school, including guest users. The solution is seamlessly integrated with the College's Wi-Fi network so that users have an incredibly simple method to access the internet while the technology identifies each unique user and applies specific policies to their access. This can mean that a guest has highly restricted access, a teacher much more freedom and students being given additional flexibility as they progress through the school.

While reliability and flexibility are key requirements for the College, it is also extremely focused on preventing inappropriate online behaviour. CyberHound's solution provides complete control for the school over inappropriate web browsing and picks up on other potentially harmful behaviour patterns that it can analyse and alert teachers on. This has been used across the world to help prevent serious cases of self-harm and even to prevent and identify online predators.

The College also wanted a solution that would be able to manage 2000+ devices and be ready for BYO student devices in the future.

The Solution

The CyberHound solution provides an all-in-one suite of tools that has been designed specifically for schools in Australia by an Australian company. The suite of tools is being used by Penola Catholic College to provide network security, email spam filtering, advanced web filtering and social media management. It has also provided the ability to integrate with the College's existing Wi-Fi solution to make the user experience exceptional while delivering greater controls, alerting and reporting over the use of any internet service (web and social media).

The solution is delivered across two campuses, providing a consistent management and reporting system for IT and Teaching staff.

The College has also embraced the use of the CyberHound's PipePlus® technology to increase the internet performance and provide disaster recovery should a link become inoperable. This enables the school to integrate multiple separate internet links including links provided by the Diocese.

"CyberHound delivered on everything they promised. All students are now given access to tools such as YouTube and we know the risks are being managed by this unique solution."

Robert Dullard, Deputy Principal
Penola Catholic College
penola.vic.edu.au
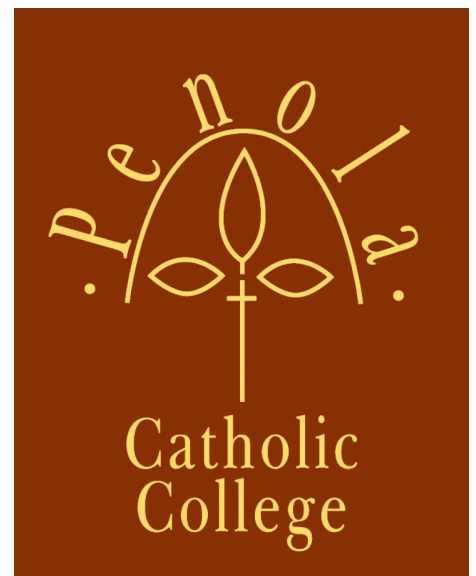
"The real-time alerting, coupled with the ability to review historical logs means we can now open up new online tools for students' use that we would have felt uneasy to enable previously."

Robert Dullard, Deputy Principal
Penola Catholic College

CyberHound is a leading provider of innovative internet compliance, management and security solutions. CyberHound provides organisations with unique, real-time social media governance and security controls with predictive outcomes and tangible business benefits. CyberHound was established in 1999, is privately held and is based in Australia.

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PipePlus® delivers these key benefits:

- Increased internet bandwidth and performance
- Dramatic improvement in the reliability of the internet and hence a reduction in stress for the IT departments and all teaching staff
- The ability to enable interactive media tools for online learning and research
- The adoption of online learning and collaborative spaces using eBooks
- Reliable authentication and reporting across all internet and social media use

The solution has been delivered as a software-based solution (using VMware) to enable the College to use its existing infrastructure and minimize the need for additional hardware with no additional hardware platform to support.

The integration with the Wi-Fi technology has also enabled the school to roll out laptops to students and CyberHound's core technology is designed to enable these devices to access any content without some of the limitations of some firewall technologies. This also means the College is ready for BYO devices in the future, if it decides to go down this path.

Furthermore, CyberHound's unique Large Object Cache means that any Apple iOS or OS X updates and 'App' downloads used by many users is automatically cached. This saves huge bandwidth requirements and contributes to the internet performance on-site.

The solution has improved the productivity of teaching staff and the IT department who are now not dealing with issue after issue about authentication problems or internet speed or down-time.

"This solution has made my life so much easier. I no longer worry about when the internet might fail or for an online incident to occur that I will find hard to identify the detail around. I strongly recommend the CyberHound solution to other schools," said Anthony Austin, ICT Manager.

"CyberHound's on-site engineers and support team have been fantastic. They planned the implementation with great care and gave us clear expectations on what to expect and how long it would take. Since we installed the solution their support team have been extremely helpful and professional. I enjoy dealing with them."

Anthony Austin, ICT Manager
Penola Catholic College

Key Benefits:

- *Internet performance has increased significantly*
- *Internet reliability is also enhanced*
- *IT and teaching staff productivity improvements*
- *New learning tools available to students as a result of the solution's capabilities*
- *Reliable reporting and controls means staff allow greater access to online resources*
- *Evidence-based alerts that facilitate early intervention before student welfare issues escalate*
- *The software-based solution means the school was not burdened by any new IT infrastructure*