McAuley House School Stops Ransomware with SonicWall

Parochial school greatly increases network security and student safety, all while decreasing overhead costs, management complexity and security administration.

Business Need

McAuley House School, located in Johannesburg, South Africa, has maintained a strong focus on educational excellence since its founding in 1907: The school currently has a 100% pass rate on matriculation exams, and 98% of students go on to earn a bachelor's degree. But when the school was targeted by two ransomware attacks in two weeks — resulting in the loss of valuable classroom time for its 66 faculty and 778 students — it became clear how much of a risk cybercrime was becoming to its mission of providing a top-tier education.

Solution

When replacing its existing open-source cybersecurity solution, the McAuley House School's primary goal was to increase protection against advanced threats. But the school had several other goals, such as centralizing security management, easing administration and decreasing overhead costs. To increase student safety, the school also wanted to improve its content filtering capabilities to help prevent students from circumventing protection measures.

The school initially purchased TZ Series NGFWs to protect the campus network. But based on its positive experience with SonicWall, the school later added Capture ATP, along with SSL-VPN to ensure secure remote access to school resources.

Results

Since switching to SonicWall, McAuley House School has reported a greatly increased security effectiveness: 100% of cyberattacks targeting the school have been blocked, and the school hasn't experienced any more successful ransomware attacks. Students and staff enjoy an enhanced user experience, while easier management and increased visibility eases the burden on IT staff. "With SonicWall, we have one less thing to worry about at our busy school, as we're always protected," McAuley House School IT Administrator Zita Jurgens said. "We've had an excellent overall experience. Best security investment decision we've ever made."

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Zita Jurgens
IT Administrator
McAuley House School

Benefits

- Protection against advanced, zero-day threats
- Secure remote access to school resources hosted on-prem or in the cloud
- Content filtering for increased student safety
- Visibility and control for applications on the network
- No more classroom time lost to cyberattacks

Solutions at a glance

- TZ Series NGFW
- Capture ATP
- SonicWall SSL-VPN

CUSTOMER PROFILE

Company	McAuley House School
Industry	Education
Country	South Africa
Employees	66
Website	www.mcauleyhouse.co.za
SonicWall Partner	Dial A Nerd

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CASE STUDY