

8e6

CASE STUDY



Securing the Learning Environment

Client: Henrico County Public Schools
Web Site: www.henrico.k12.va.us
Number of Users: 27,600+
Requirements: Remote Laptop Filtering
Solutions: 8e6 Mobile Client, R3000 Internet Filter and Enterprise Reporter

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Lloyd Brown
Director of Technology,
Henrico County Public Schools

Henrico County Public School District Secures its Laptop Initiative with 8e6’s Mobile Client

Profile

Henrico County Public Schools’ (HCPS) officials have the utmost confidence that their students will become competent and educated members of the 21st Century society. This, in part, comes from their recent experience in implementing a 1:1 laptop initiative for the school district — in 2001 the district began distributing laptops to the all teachers and staff as well as secondary students. Today, over 27,600 middle and high school students and teachers at 66 schools are equipped with a laptop for use in class and home. With HCPS’ incredibly diverse population drawing from high-density urban areas, rural regions and high-tech suburban communities, the 1:1 laptop program allows each student an equal access to 21st century tools.

Since the program’s onset, school officials have taken note of students’ rising grades, but most importantly, their rising interest in school. “It is incredible the change laptops have created in our students,” says Principal Aaron Spence. “Today our students are much more organized and have access to a wealth of educational content from their laptop — from teacher-created Web pages to assignments.” Teachers and administrators have also noticed that since the program started, school attendance has risen and students are more engaged in the classroom because in addition to traditional teaching materials, they now have dynamic and interactive educational experiences as well.

Challenge

When school officials decided to implement the 1:1 initiative, their goal was to provide a 21st Century learning environment while maintaining student safety, complying with CIPA laws and ensuring that students would use the laptops in an appropriate and educational manner. During preliminary parent discussions, some parents voiced concerns about the potential for students to be exposed to inappropriate Web content and/or online predators.

“Since we use Mac iBooks for grades 6 to 8, and Dell laptops for grades 9 to 12, we needed a solution that supports both platforms,” added Lloyd Brown, Director of Technology for HCPS. In addition, like most schools with limited IT resources and overburdened staff, HCPS was concerned about how much time and effort it would take to implement and maintain a remote laptop filtering solution. “The key is centralized administration,” says Brown.



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Solution

To address the growing use of laptops in schools, 8e6 Technologies developed the 8e6 Mobile Client to filter and secure off-site students from accessing inappropriate and malicious Web content. As a software-based application that works in conjunction with the R3000 Mobile appliance, the Mobile Client has a centralized configuration and remote administration. The auto-network detection allows for a seamless internal and external Web filtering experience, making it completely transparent to students and tamper-proof. Finally, the Mobile Client has the same advanced filtering options as the R3000 Internet filter, including:

- Google and Yahoo SafeSearch enforcement
- Search engine and URL keyword filtering
- Configurable user lockout
- Anonymous proxy blocking

The 8e6 Mobile Client also works in conjunction with the Enterprise Reporter, a dedicated appliance that processes and displays Internet filtering logs without compromising filtering speed or performance, or impacting network functions. With cross-referenced and customized reporting that details reports by user name, machine name, IP address, or MAC address, the Enterprise Reporter helps IT administrators cut down on the amount of time they spend creating reports.

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Result

“We first started using 8e6’s Internet filtering solution in 2002 and we have been pleased with it ever since. The 8e6 Mobile Client has increased our satisfaction,” Mr. Brown says. “8e6 has proved to stand behind its product and service. HCPS Staff appreciates the fact that there is only one number to call for support. But the best thing of all is that the Mobile Client simply does its job well. It has saved the school considerable expense and our students are protected, our network is secure, and parents are informed that their kids are being filtered.”



8e6 Technologies is the leading provider of appliance-based Internet filtering, monitoring and reporting solutions for education, and has played a significant role in filtering the Web for over 10 years. 8e6 directly addresses the challenges of online child safety by giving network administrators and educators the tools to view, understand and react to Web-based threats arising from online learning. As a single-source vendor, 8e6 provides all of the hardware, software and support to ensure a secure learning environment while maintaining CIPA compliance. The company maintains headquarters in Orange, California, and has a network of channel partners worldwide.

For more information on 8e6 Technologies and 8e6 appliance-based solutions for Internet Filtering and Web-use Reporting, visit www.8e6.com.