

Braxton County Public Schools Finds Affordable Network Security

CASE STUDY

TO GET THE NETWORK SECURITY functionality he needed, Sterling Beane, director of technology for the West Virginia-based Braxton County Public School system, found himself facing the prospect of implementing a piece-meal solution built by cobbling together products from various vendors

What's more, as the only person experienced enough to install and manage the system he would, most likely, be doing all the work himself across the school's nine locations—with budgets so tight, help was not likely. It was an impossible situation, recalls Beane, with a "learning curve that was just too big and an implementation curve way too daunting."

What he needed was a way to integrate all the functions he was looking for into a single, easy to use solution that he could manage from his office. And in 2003, he found exactly what he needed with Symantec's Gateway Security 5400 Series solution.

FUNCTIONS INTEGRATED AND MANAGEMENT CENTRALIZED

"This product is everything I was hoping to find," reports Beane. "It has all the functionality I wanted including firewall protection, automatic spam blocking and intrusion detection. And because it's all inte-

grated, I can centralize the management. And I was simply amazed at the through put," he adds. "I expected a slow down, but my Internet connection is not one bit slower than it was before."

Today, Beane can easily look at any of the boxes on his network across the nine campuses, checking to see if anyone is attempting to hack in and, if they are, what methods they're using. Moreover, he can proactively use the analysis to pinpoint areas where Braxton can make changes to enhance security. Most importantly: he can do it all himself.

And as the sole person responsible for keeping Braxton's network secure, Beane also appreciates how Symantec Security Response keeps him updated.

"I don't have to worry about updating the antivirus definitions, intrusion detection signatures, or content filtering lists," explains Beane. "I just set the time I want updates to happen and they do; the box updates itself and Symantec will notify me if there's a new threat.

"This is an affordable solution—even with the limited resources of a public school system," he adds.