



Los Angeles Area School District Protects Students from Cyber Dangers and Increases Productivity with Nomadix Internet Traffic Optimizer

ABOUT LAS VIRGENES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Las Virgenes Unified School District (LVUSD) is located in Los Angeles County and encompasses the cities of Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Hidden Hills and Westlake Village. The district contains 18 schools covering grades K-12, with approximately 11,000 students and 650 teachers. LVUSD was recently named one of the 30 top-performing school districts in the state of California.



CHALLENGE

- While roughly 1,000 LVUSD faculty members and administrators had Internet access, the district sought to install an enterprise wireless solution that would expand service to all 12,000 employees and students.
- Additionally, the district wanted to embrace the bring-your-own-device (BYOD) movement, which would offer each student/employee access to the district network through as many as four devices each.
- Before this enterprise wireless solution could launch, LVUSD needed to assure all stakeholders that a robust content filter and reporting system would be installed to monitor and control student Internet access to prevent possible abuse.
- While LVUSD had an existing content filter in place, it was easy to bypass and did not provide any reporting features. A more powerful and secure content filter was needed that would prove tough for students to bypass, simple for teachers to use and flexible enough to meet diverse needs.



SOLUTION

“NITO’s next-generation content filtering goes beyond simple URL lists—it monitors all the content students view in real time. This threat assessment helps keep students safe and more focused in class.”

— **PHIL SCRIVANO,**
CTO, Las Virgenes Unified School District

- LVUSD Chief Technology Officer Phil Scrivano identified that only a next-generation, real-time web filter product would provide the zero-day threat protection needed. Scrivano had previously worked at a leading web-filter company and knew of the limitations many URL filters have, such as students easily bypassing filters and frequent delays in list updates, which provides a window of time for students to access unprotected, uncategorized web content. This exposes the school network to web-borne threats.
- Scrivano turned to Nomadix and its Nomadix Internet Traffic Optimizer (NITO)—a highly efficient, robust and cost-effective appliance that enables IT managers to easily manage web access in real time. Unlike many of the URL filters on the market, NITO’s web filter inspects the page construction, context and content included on the page (third-party ads, links, etc.) to make intelligent assessments instantly without impacting the web experience. This technology prevents students from accessing off-limits sites on the school’s network.
- With its powerful review capabilities, NITO provides the ability to identify cyber safety issues, such as inappropriate communications and bullying. For instance, if a student tried to search for questionable terms or send derogatory messages, administrators would be alerted and empowered to take proactive steps before the situation escalated further.
- NITO’s extensive reporting capabilities allows IT admins to drill down on data and analysis patterns, IP address usage, most-visited domains, search terms, and more to support process improvements and stop wasteful or potentially harmful activity on school networks.
- During LVUSD’s installation of NITO, Nomadix customer service representatives assisted in fine tuning the content filter rules to meet the unique needs of the district. From there, LVUSD IT admins were able to easily manage the content filter and make adjustments on the fly in response to changing situations.





RESULTS

Student safety

The use of NITO gives parents, staff and administrators an effective safety net to better protect students against cyber bullying and other online dangers.

Productivity

Both teacher and student productivity within LVUSD increased with the use of NITO. Because students were no longer able to bypass the content filter, they were less distracted and more apt to pay attention in class. Teachers didn't have to worry about policing the Internet habits of students during class and could therefore focus on the curriculum.

Internet efficiency

Thanks to NITO's ability to reduce unwanted data and information, the burden on the networking infrastructure at LVUSD was lessened, which resulted in increased performance and bandwidth availability for smoother operations. Additionally, there was no network latency or slowdown based on passing traffic.

“The NITO from Nomadix is a best-in-class solution. Its sound engineering, ease of use and excellent reporting capabilities provide a total solution for schools.”

– PHIL SCRIVANO,
CTO, Las Virgenes Unified School District

ABOUT NOMADIX



Nomadix offers gateways for seamless wired and wireless connectivity solutions across public access networks and enterprises. Powered by patented technology, Nomadix enables revenue generation and customization in a number of business models. With Nomadix, public-access network providers are able to deploy cost-effective, secure and easy-to-use network services. Nomadix is a wholly owned subsidiary company of DOCOMO interTouch.

For more information, visit www.nomadix.com.