

Total Traffic Control

Monitor Control Secure

LIGHTSPEED
SYSTEMS EUROPE

Comprehensive Cost-Effective Security

Case Study



Bridgend College delivers “University quality” service with Lightspeed Systems

As networks become more complex, and the range of internet services expand, the need for organisations to become more vigilant is ever greater. The enormous benefit the internet brings has to be balanced against the potential dangers of inappropriate use.

The College

Bridgend College in South Wales was established 80 years ago as a Technical Institute with its roots in the mining industry. Originally providing evening classes to promote the welfare of Miners, it quickly evolved into a day school providing technical education to boys in the age range 13 to 15. After the Second World War, the college expanded, underwent several transformations and in 1975 became the Bridgend College of Technology. Today the College spans five campuses, employs 850 staff and provides over 500 courses to more than 15,000 students.

The Challenge

Leighton Spurgeon, IT Services Manager and Mike Gallivan, IT Services Technical Manager of Bridgend College were concerned that the increasing scale of the College's IT facilities was leading to a situation that was becoming out of hand. Leighton explains, “For several years we simply had no visibility whatsoever as to who was doing what on our network and no insight on the traffic flows. Not only had our network become unmanageable, but we were also completely open to abuse”. Leighton and his team deployed several products to try to remedy this situation but with limited success. “Our i-Critical system just couldn't scale up to the performance and level of monitoring we needed for a growing network of over 1,450 Mac and Windows PC's.”

The Solution

Bridgend's dilemma is not unique amongst schools and colleges and, whilst containing the problem as best they could, they remained optimistic that there had to be a better solution. The team kept a close eye on the technology market with particular focus on the market leading so called “best of breed” solutions. Bridgend's product selection process had already moved on to a full evaluation of Web-sense but when Leighton visited the BETT show he became aware of Total Traffic Control from Lightspeed Systems. Total Traffic Control was eye catching because it seemed to address all of Bridgend's issues in a single comprehensive solution. Leighton's reaction was “I need to try this software to see if it does everything it claims to do!” Bridgend College therefore included TTC in its technology review.

The Benefits

Bridgend College undertakes franchised work for some Universities so Internet browsing performance was a key issue. It was imperative that the college deliver the same quality of service that the students would expect from a University. After installing Total Traffic Control in its web filtering role it was immediately apparent that performance was impressive. Total Traffic Control's powerful packet processing engine was delivering a much higher throughput across all the Bridgend sites and the usual daily performance complaints stopped overnight! As well as impressive performance, Total Traffic Control's extensive range of reports gave Bridgend College the visibility into network activity that they really needed. Michael Gallivan, IT Services Technical Manager at Bridgend College commented that “we can see exactly what users are doing on the network and can use that information to establish usage policies and bandwidth management rules based on real as opposed to perceived areas of concern. The management console is very intuitive and easy-to-use. In a few clicks you can get detailed information about what is happening, how much traffic is being generated, by whom, and so on.”

Full network integration (Active Directory, e-Directory or LDAP) allows granular policies to be set by users, groups, organisational units, IP address ranges and individual computers enabling implementation of appropriate controls across all age groups. Michael continues “we are now able to set different policies for staff, Higher Education students, Further Education students and 14-16 year old school children who all attend courses at this college.”

As Bridgend College deploys further features of Total Traffic Control such as Spam filtering, email journaling and end-point security, Leighton and his team expect to realise considerable cost savings over current solutions as well as reduce the management overhead usually attributed to keeping the network functioning well.

Leighton concludes “The bottom line is that Total Traffic Control is a brilliant product - in my 13 years in IT working in both Private and Public sector, this is the best piece of software I've come across! It gives you unprecedented vision and control of your network activity and I couldn't endorse the product more.”