



Westminster School

Advancing School Security

Westminster School Partners with Fortinet and Nuago

Established in 1961, Westminster School is a leading coeducational independent day and boarding School in Marion with some 1,250 students and priding themselves in a holistic approach to education and valuing student achievement in all development areas and interests.

Joining the Forefront of Network Security

In 2018, as a part of their continual commitment to technology, Westminster School sought to upgrade their ageing network and firewall. The old and unmanageable technology from previous vendors was beginning to tire and cause several issues that had an impact on even the most basic functionality across the campus, such as the ability to monitor network activity and create reports. Speeds were slow and being throttled at certain checkpoints, and some existing firewall features had been left disabled due to the impact on overall performance, leaving the network's security more vulnerable to outside threats.

Partnering with the Best

Looking at a range of vendors, Westminster School chose **Fortinet** as their product provider, knowing that the systems were strong and came highly recommended. The School chose **Nuago** to implement the system, and together formed the beginning of a solid partnership that involved forward thinking and expert advice on what configurations needed to be made in order to ensure the results the School wanted.

Details

Customer Name: Westminster School

Industry: Education

Location: Marion, South Australia

School Type: Co-ed, Early Learning – Year 12

Year Founded: 1961

Total Enrolment: 1,250 (approx)

Key Products

FortiGate: Next Generation Firewall (NGFW)

FortiAnalyzer: NOC-SOC Security Analysis

Impact

- Enhance usability, effectiveness, and security of the network and student data with Fortinet's unique product features.
- Increase the School's monitoring and reporting capabilities for future development.
- Enable autonomy within the School's ICT department and wider faculty through accessibility, training, and Fortinet certifications.



“For us it was a real partnership. Nuago were very interested in how the school runs, and we felt very comfortable having them as part of the team, rather than a vendor-client relationship.”

- Keith Rutherford,
Director of ICT Services,
Westminster School



Instant Results

Since implementing the new system, including the **FortiGate** and **FortiAnalyzer** products, Westminster School has been able to immediately identify and defend against sophisticated inbound threats to the network. The automated functionality and industry-leading continuous risk assessment features of FortiGate has resulted in a more intelligent system that is constantly updating upon, and evaluating, the School's network practices. The protection is not only for inbound threats, but for outbound ones, too. The new system has brought with it an improvement on the detection and counteraction of detrimental network activity occurring on campus, such as students trying to gain access to banned or offensive content.

The School has also taken advantage of the ability to provide unique permissions to individual staff members, such as giving teachers access to opening restricted content for learning purposes autonomously, without the need to log ICT helpdesk calls.

Being able to use key reporting features that were previously deactivated on the old system, Westminster School has a newfound ability to plan future iterations of their network, as well as gain knowledge of broader daily activities, with useful data being generated on how the network and internet are being used throughout the School, who their core users are, and what sites are being accessed.

This kind of reporting has already proved useful in a case involving a student accused of inappropriate online behaviour:

“We actually had a real-life scenario about two weeks after we went live. A student had been accused of posting inappropriate comments on an external website that was not connected with our school. Quite literally, including the discussion time, within two minutes, we'd got into Fortinet, we'd found exactly what he was doing at the time that the post was made, and we proved without any doubt that it wasn't him.”

An Ongoing Partnership

Moving ahead, Westminster School plans to become more independent, training ICT staff members and providing them with some of Fortinet's certifications, enabling them to manage daily in-school activity, allowing Nuago and Fortinet to focus on more critical and advanced issues, in a solid partnership that will continue for years to come.



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