Forest of DeanTrust

Sector:

Education

Products:

MX Security Solution

Cisco Umbrella

Services:

Design, installation, configuration, support

Highlights:

- Redway Networks delivered an outstanding project and the Trust is now benefitting from best in class networking and security capabilities from Cisco

- Increased security and firewalling with enhanced content filtering

- Meraki Firewall blocks 150 cyber-threats worldwide in the first 2 weeks

- Improved network visibility and security for all devices and applications

- Enhanced protection against malware, botnets and breaches on and off the network

- Meraki's Auto-VPN has reduced daily technician troubleshooting time by 25%

The Forest of Dean Trust meets its vision for security with Meraki from Redway Networks

The Forest of Dean Multi-Academy Trust is delivering best in class network security with advanced defence against cyberthreats to students and staff with a new Meraki MX security solution and Cisco Umbrella.

Deployed by Redway Networks, Cisco is delivering complete cloud security and protecting the schools' end users against Internet threats on and off the network.

The Trust, based in Gloucestershire, supports over 1,100 students across Dene Magna secondary school and Drybrook primary school. To accommodate the Trust's growing network it needed to replace its legacy firewalls with a new superior security solution that could be managed remotely via the cloud.

Emily Stigant is the Trust's IT Manager and heads up the ICT team which is based at Dene Magna School.

Emily says: "We'd already upgraded our wireless network and core and edge switching with Redway Networks and following this upgrade we were able to track network devices and data throughput more accurately. This highlighted significantly more network traffic than we'd previously estimated."

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Existing Firewalls needed replacing

Emily says: "It became apparent that our existing Smoothwall firewalls didn't have enough capacity to support our needs, so we decided to upgrade to a more superior security solution.

We also have a virtual private network (VPN) that connects Dene Magna to the sixth form at Gloucestershire College's Forest of Dean Campus which was dropping multiple times each day and taking more than 15 minutes to get up and running each time. This was interrupting lesson time, so a stable VPN that could handle the amount of traffic traveling between the two sites was top of the list when we looked at firewalls.

Because we'd received a fantastic service from Redway Networks it was an easy decision to contact Redway for a demonstration of Meraki MX as we knew the benefits of a fully integrated, centrally managed solution. Once I saw the simplicity and easy of management of Meraki I knew Meraki was the right fit for us."

Meraki firewall and auto-VPN improves security

Redway Networks then supplied Meraki's MX250, MX95 and MX75 firewalls with a 10-year advanced security and support licence, configured to the schools' exact needs.

With Meraki in place the Trust now has iron-clad security with a stable and reliable auto-VPN between Dene Magna and its sixth form.

Emily says: "Our Meraki security solution is already delivering results. I can see in Meraki's reporting and statistics that the firewall has blocked 150 threats worldwide in the last two weeks and its auto-VPN is saving our technician over a quarter of his working day on the time previously spent bringing the VPN connection back online. It's literally hands-off with Meraki as the auto-VPN is self-healing so if it did ever drop, traffic would keep moving which is great from a technical perspective. Since we've had our Meraki firewall the VPN hasn't dropped once."

Integration with Cisco Umbrella improves student safeguarding.

With many infections happening when devices aren't on the network the Trust wanted to deploy cloud security across its network fabric to protect all students and staff against internet threats both on and off-network. So a natural security addition was to connect its Meraki firewalls to Cisco Umbrella – a domain name service (DNS) and web gateway that provides an extra line of defence.

Emily says: "We chose Cisco Umbrella to improve student safeguarding and enforce acceptable web use. Automatically integrated with our Meraki firewall, Umbrella provides us

with the high level of monitoring and filtering required in an education environment. It has granular filtering for profiles which is central in giving us the control to manage our staff and students' internet experience on and off our network. All our network traffic is pushed through a central point which enables us to monitor exactly what students are accessing online and bar certain websites which improves safeguarding. Another area we wanted to improve on was the security of our mobile devices."

> **"Redway Networks delivered an outstanding service and Meraki MX has protected our network in every way. In addition, Cisco Umbrella is delivering safe online experiences to students taking classroom learning home."**
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> **Emily Stigant**, IT Manager, The Forest of Dean Trust

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Redway Networks is a leading IT infrastructure reseller with expertise in the planning, design and installation of enterprise-wide WiFi, network switching and security solutions to the UK education sector. We only endorse world-leading technology and deliver bespoke, affordable solutions that improve digital learning and transformative experiences.

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