

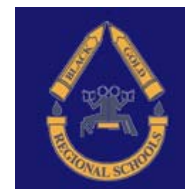
# Black Gold Regional Schools

Students, faculty and staff protected by Fortinet's new generation security gateway

## Case Study

### Situation

Black Gold Regional Schools located in Alberta, Canada consists of the school division's headquarters, 25 schools, a store front school and many home schoolers who work with their local schools. Approximately 8,500 students are enrolled in the schools and instruction is delivered by more than 460 teachers with the support of approximately 180 secretaries, library clerks and teacher aides. The school division encompasses the former Leduc School District No. 297, County of Leduc No. 25 and the Devon School District No. 492 and includes the municipalities of Beaumont, Devon, Thorsby, Calmar and Leduc.



When it came to finding a network security vendor that could provide an additional level of firewall protection to the schools, Black Gold Regional Schools turned to its trusted partner, ACSI ([www.acsisecure.com](http://www.acsisecure.com)). As Canada's acknowledged leader in network security solutions, ACSI had a proven track record of working with Black Gold Regional Schools. After careful consideration, the school division selected Fortinet on ACSI's recommendation.

"Fortinet was the only solution that was able to provide firewall functionality with the option of easily adding on security features such as Web content filtering, intrusion prevention and antivirus without having to purchase additional appliances and pay for individual licenses," explained Dean Townson, director of Business Development at ACSI.

"We were very impressed with the FortiGate's ability to easily add network security functionality as we need without having to incur additional costs," said Peter Balding, IT director at Black Gold Regional Schools.

### Solution

Originally needing just an additional layer of firewall protection for the schools, Black Gold Regional Schools selected Fortinet's FortiGate@-100A appliances. After deploying the appliances at all 25 schools and at the division's main office, the IT staff realized that they could easily and cost effectively turn on additional security functionality such as Web content filtering, intrusion prevention, antivirus and anti-spam. In doing so, they were able to reduce the amount of network security appliances deployed at the main office.

Now, each school has its own remote office connection rather than having to connect to the main office's network for protection. With this, schools are able to set their own network usage policy guidelines if need be. And, the main office can now separate the central office network from those of the individual schools.

With a need to protect faculty, staff and students from email spam, Black Gold Regional Schools deployed a FortiMail@-2000A appliance at its main office. The FortiMail appliance is cleansing the 55,000+ emails that the division receives on a daily basis and is stopping spam and viruses before they enter the school division's network. With FortiMail in place, Black Gold can easily distinguish between the good email from the 90% that is either spam or unwanted email. "Fortimail is excellent and the best spam filter we have used," added Barry Scheelar, network coordinator at Black Gold Regional Schools.

**Deployment:**  
FortiGate-100A  
FortiManager-  
FortiAnalyzer-800B  
FortiMail-2000A  
FortiClient  
FortiGuard Network

**Industry:**  
Education

In addition to the FortiGate appliances deployed at the 25 schools, Black Gold Regional Schools also deployed Fortinet FortiClient™ end point security solution on the laptops of 100 students in grades 5-9. As part of a pilot program funded by Alberta Education, each student is given a school authorized laptop to use and bring home. But, in order to maintain the network security policies enforced by the school, an end point security solution was needed. FortiClient end-point security solution includes personal firewall, antivirus, anti-spyware, anti-spam and Web filtering protection for the students. Having additional protection on the student laptops was also well received by the parents as they know that the Black Gold IT staff has taken the extra steps to protect their students when they are at home.

All FortiGate appliances as well as FortiMail and FortiClient are powered by Fortinet's FortiGuard® security subscription services to ensure devices are securely protected against blended threats. FortiGuard Subscription Services leverage Fortinet's reputation database and signatures to identify and block



spam, phishing attempts, viruses, spyware and other email-borne threats and deliver automatic real-time updates to Fortinet appliances located around the world.

## Success

Among the many benefits the IT staff at Black Gold Regional Schools has seen since deploying the Fortinet appliances include: unified and integrated network security, advanced network reporting and analysis from a central location, increased network security for students in and out of the classroom and automatic updates.

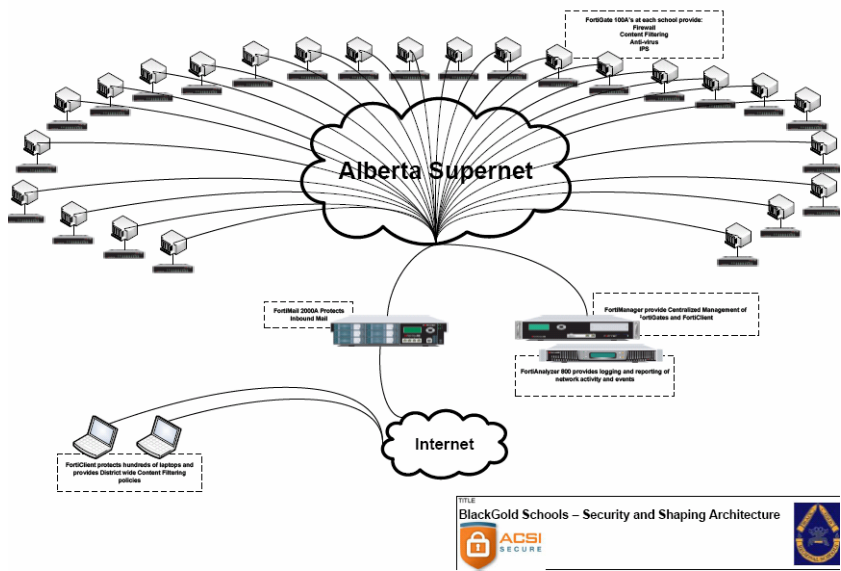
Fortinet's unified and integrated approach to network security allows organizations of all sizes to easily increase network protection to include multiple security functionalities. As a result, cost conscious entities such as Black Gold Regional Schools can get complete network security functionality without the burden of adding multiple security appliances to its network. If more security is needed, it's a simple process for the IT staff to turn on additional functionalities.

By easily leveraging the power of Fortinet's FortiManager and FortiAnalyzer solution, the IT staff now has granular reporting down to the user level – something that they weren't able to do before. In addition, management and analysis of all the FortiGate appliances is easily done via the FortiManager. No matter where a FortiGate-100A, FortiMail or FortiClient is located, all network changes can be centrally made rather than having to manually log into each network and make changes.

Since deploying Fortinet's product line, Black Gold Regional Schools has been very happy with the tighter control of network usage the students have when using school computers. Teachers know that whether their student is at school or using a school given laptop, they will not be able to access inappropriate Websites or even those that may not be initially harmful, but could lead to problems such as MySpace, YouTube and many instant messaging protocols.

Finally, Fortinet's FortiGuard Network has allowed the IT staff at Black Gold Regional Schools to focus on network improvement and more strategic goals rather than just network updates. The FortiGuard Network automatically pushes out signature updates as well as sets a list of approved Websites. If the IT staff needs to make changes or updates, they are able to do so but without having to worry if their network is fully protected from the latest malware and Internet threats.

"What started out as a simple firewall deployment four years ago has successfully expanded to multiple security functionalities as well as a FortiMail and FortiClient deployment," added Balding. "We are very pleased with our core, distributed, end point and mail deployment of Fortinet products and hope to continue the relationship.



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## About Fortinet

Fortinet is the pioneer and leading provider of ASIC-accelerated unified threat management, or UTM, security systems, which are used by enterprises and service providers to increase their security while reducing total operating costs. Fortinet solutions were built from the ground up to integrate multiple levels of security protection—including firewall, antivirus, intrusion prevention, VPN, spyware prevention and anti-spam -- designed to help customers protect against network and content level threats. Leveraging a custom ASIC and unified interface, Fortinet solutions offer advanced security functionality that scales from remote office to chassis-based solutions with integrated management and reporting. Fortinet solutions have won multiple awards around the world and are the only security products that are certified in six programs by ICSA Labs: (Firewall, Antivirus, IPSec, SSL, Network IPS and Anti-Spam). Fortinet is privately held and based in Sunnyvale, California.

