

# Widener University

## Education

### Situation

Founded in 1821, Widener University is a multi-campus, independent, metropolitan university that provides comprehensive liberal arts and professional level education through eight schools and colleges. Network engineers and administrators for the main campus, located in Chester, PA, were evaluating security vendors to provide protection for their network users because some existing, older firewall products were due to expire. Renewal, on a per user licensing fee model would be too expensive and perhaps wasteful because the university needed a more in-depth security architecture going forward.

Widener University needed a comprehensive, integrated network security solution for its 8,000 users across three campuses, ranging from students to employees and staff of the university community, including the various student dormitories. In addition, Widener University houses Widener Information Network Services (WINS), where Widener provides secure bandwidth for the Delaware County School Districts, consisting of 13 school districts, as well as the Technology Park buildings (a joint-venture technology business park between Widener and Crozer Keystone Health System).

Through WINS, Widener University acts as the secure Internet Service Provider (ISP) to the Delaware School Districts as well as the Technology Park. In this capacity, Widener University provides front-line network security, including content filtering, antivirus, firewall and traffic monitoring for as many as 60,000 users at a time.

Widener University and WINS needed a comprehensive security solution that wouldn't compromise the performance of their existing Nortel network, including a slate of security features to choose from as needed by their application. After evaluating security products from Cisco, Crossbeam, Juniper/Netscreen, and Symantec, Widener University chose Fortinet's FortiGate systems, citing the performance, security, functionality, and scalability to accommodate all of its users' needs in convenient all-in-one enterprise threat management appliances.

### Solution

In order to research, test and choose a new network security solution, Widener University turned to Fortinet Solutions Partner Corporate Networking, Inc., a provider of equipment, support, and services from best-of-breed technology vendors.

Tim Slattery, senior account executive for Corporate Networking, Inc. said: "We work extensively with incumbent vendors like Cisco and Nortel and provide support for major network implementations, such as those found in ISP level configurations. Fortinet remains competitive in this landscape, and we recommended Fortinet's FortiGate systems and FortiGuard subscription services for Widener University's



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Perry Drayfahl  
Director of Technical Resources

### Fortinet Products/Services:

- FortiGate-3600 systems
- FortiGate-800 systems
- FortiGuard Web Filtering Subscription Service

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needs because Fortinet's technology provides comprehensive, enterprise-level security features in a flexible, ASIC-based network security appliance that can support and integrate seamlessly into existing network infrastructures as well as boost network performance in bandwidth intensive applications."

As a result, Widener University deployed FortiGate-3600 systems, Fortinet's security appliances for large enterprises and service providers. The FortiGate-3600 systems are deployed in high availability (HA) mode on Widener University's main campus, one to protect the University's 8,000 users including the students' dormitories and the other as part of WINS to serve as a secure ISP for the Delaware County School Districts and Technology Park communities of 60,000 users. The FortiGate-3600 systems provide real-time antivirus, content filtering, firewall, VPN, intrusion detection/prevention, antispam and traffic filtering, managed by policies created for each organization's unique needs. Deployed in HA mode, the two FortiGate-3600 systems provide the ability for network traffic to be shared within a cluster, allowing for less downtime during common procedures such as network updates.

Widener University's pursuit of a common, scalable network security solution also helped the decision to procure additional Fortinet technology for "defense-in-depth" applications. The enterprise-class FortiGate-800 systems have been deployed to provide an additional layer of security for several large file servers and mission critical applications operating within the University network. These additional systems provide maximum security for mission-critical resources that enterprises depend on, without adding to performance degradation within existing networks based on Fortinet's ASIC-accelerated security platform.

In addition to the native integrated content filtering application available in every FortiGate system and to further protect its vast network of users, Widener University also deployed Fortinet's FortiGuard Web Filtering Subscription Service to secure the WINS network from inappropriate or unwanted Internet content. Fortinet's FortiGuard Web Filtering solution is a subscription service that provides Web URL filtering for schools, libraries, government agencies, and enterprise businesses of all sizes.

For a layered security approach, Fortinet's FortiGate systems at the network gateway and FortiGuard Web Filtering Subscription Service work effectively in tandem with Widener University's existing security technology including host antivirus for the desktop provided by Symantec, bandwidth shaping technology provided by Allot as well as an antispam appliance from CipherTrust.

### Success

"In servicing our communities as an ISP, as well as securing our own carrier-class network, Widener University needed effective enterprise security solutions capable of the most demanding uses. With Fortinet's enterprise security appliances and Web filtering service, the comprehensive level of protection, combined with sheer robustness of product and high availability capabilities allows our university community to benefit from enterprise network protection tools with fewer concerns regarding down-time," said Perry Drayfahl, director of technical resources at Widener University.

Widener University's Fortinet deployment and the WINS deployments to protect the Delaware County School Districts and the Technology Park have driven other school districts in the area to also evaluate their security measures.

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