

# Komazawa University

## Meeting Security Requirements Without Breaking The Budget

### Situation

Komazawa University is one of the oldest universities in Japan. The university initially began as a Zen Buddhist seminary in 1592, for monks of the Soto sect, one of the two main Zen traditions in Japan. The university still maintains a collection of rare books, such as the Chinese Tripitaka from the Ming Dynasty, relating to Zen Buddhism. Today, Komazawa is a modern institute of higher learning, with an enrollment of 17,000 students. Its six faculties and seventeen departments teach subjects ranging from Buddhism, business and economics, to law. The main campus of the university is located 20 minutes outside of central Tokyo.

Komazawa University recently started several initiatives to improve the infrastructure of the campus. One of those initiatives was the deployment of a wireless LAN with 300 access points across the campus, so that students and staff can more conveniently connect to the university's intranet, called KOMAnet, and the Internet. The IT department at Komazawa University quickly realized that the wireless network exposed users and the whole network itself to a host of computer threats. Viruses, worms and other malware were coming into the network, sometimes from foreign countries, especially when faculty members exchange email with researchers abroad. Also, because the network had no means to filter web content, the IT department did not have the option to block certain known sites or services.

The university briefly considered the use of antivirus software on each of the systems connected to the network but with so many desktops and mobile notebooks and devices roaming about the campus, this approach would be very difficult to enforce. Komazawa's IT department decided that the best approach to address the security issues, without introducing manageability issues, was to deploy a security solution at the edge of the network instead.

### Solution

Network security is a particularly difficult issue to address adequately, because IT departments in universities are typically small, while the user base is numerous and diverse, with different requirements and skill levels.

Komazawa University evaluated several security appliances from a range of vendors before selecting Fortinet's FortiGate-3000 antivirus firewall platform. The selection criteria included a specified range of security functions, such as antivirus, firewall and intrusion prevention, performance and ease of use and administration. The FortiGate-3000 scored high on all criteria, and Komazawa University's engineers were particularly impressed with the performance gains due to its ASIC-based hardware acceleration.

Another important consideration was cost. Mr. Katsuhiko Tokumoto,



*"The FortiGate-3000 integrated well into our network environment, and administration of the unit was surprisingly very simple, even though it integrated so many security functions into the appliance. It's amazing that we can be protected from all kinds of undesirable network traffic, like worms, viruses, and other malware through deploying just this one device"*

- Mr. Katsuhiko Tokumoto  
Network Information Center  
Chief, Komazawa University

Products:  
1 x FortiGate-3000  
FortiGuard annual subscription

Industry: Education

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Network Information Center Chief for Komazawa University, explains, "We liked Fortinet's license structure, and we think that it is particularly suited for all educational institutes. We have a user base of about 17,000. Security solutions that charge per-client licenses would therefore be prohibitively expensive, and difficult to audit. Fortinet's licensing is very simple and fits within our budget."

### Success

Since the FortiGate-3000 was successfully deployed, the university has seen a dramatic drop in virus outbreaks, hacking and other network incidents. With its wide range of security features, the FortiGate-3000 provides the IT department at the university the means to implement comprehensive security, protecting various aspects of the network, such as filtering spam and keeping unauthorized users out, in addition to the necessary firewall and anti-virus protection.

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Network Information Center Chief

The university's network administrators have also found that security policies are now easier to implement and adjust, through the FortiGate-3000's intuitive browser-based interface. Network throughput has also improved, as there are far fewer virus and network incidents.

"The FortiGate-3000 integrated seamlessly into our network," said Mr. Tokumoto. "We had no problems with the deployment, and since that deployment, we have had a much easier time maintaining the security of the network. As our university continues to roll-out new services, we will be sure to keep Fortinet in mind for our future projects."

Fortinet's FortiGate-3000 offers a complete array of antivirus, firewall, content filtering, VPN, network-based intrusion prevention (IPS), and traffic shaping capabilities. The FortiGate-3000 deploys easily in existing networks and can be used for antivirus and content filtering only or can be deployed as a complete network protection solution. The FortiGate-3000 features 3 Gbps interfaces, high-availability operation and redundant hot-swappable power supplies for robust reliability and non-stop operation. The FortiGate-3000 is kept up to date automatically by Fortinet's FortiGuard™ Distribution Network, which provides continuous updates that ensure protection against the latest viruses, worms, Trojans, and other threats - around the clock, and around the world.

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