

# Lethbridge School District No. 51 & Red Deer Public Schools

## Education

### Situation

Two large school districts in Canada, Lethbridge School District No. 51 and Red Deer Public Schools, were looking to secure their user bases of thousands of users from malicious network traffic, inappropriate network content and network attacks. Several external factors created a scenario where these two school districts needed to evaluate their existing security measures.

Both school districts had very similar needs: To protect a broad base of network users spanning multiple platforms and uses, and to secure, regulate and monitor a variety of Internet and Web-based applications. In addition, any new security solution would need to integrate into their existing networks and provide protection, while at the same time allowing the flexibility to scale in accordance with future user needs.

### Solution

Both Canadian school districts, Lethbridge School District No. 51 and Red Deer Public Schools, had a mix of security equipment already deployed, with separate boxes performing the typical security features: Firewall, antivirus, traffic monitoring and content filtering. Administering the every-day tasks between these separate boxes was becoming increasingly time consuming, especially as the number of viruses, worms and other intrusions increased with network use over time.

Like many enterprises with deployed point security products, Red Deer Public Schools was coming up on a number of renewals for its single-use systems. Red Deer Public Schools was looking to consolidate these security features onto a single, easy to administer security platform. In addition, the district had some legacy equipment performing firewall functions installed and wanted to ensure any new security appliance would not degrade its network performance, and would operate at the gateway outside of a heterogeneous network environment. With 11,000 users accessing Internet and Web applications from both Macintosh and PC environments, Red Deer Public Schools needed tested enterprise solutions.

Lethbridge School District is the 10th largest school district in Alberta, Canada. Its network security requirements consisted of needing to secure a 100 percent Windows XP environment on the client level, with Novell and Red Hat on the server level. In addition to securing the different applications available to district users, Lethbridge School District was in need of content filtering for different profiles; for instance, to ensure that elementary school traffic can be monitored separately from secondary school network traffic.

Both school districts chose Fortinet's network security platform to secure their education networks; each deploying a FortiGate-500



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Matt Norton  
Director of Technology

**Fortinet Products/Services:**  
FortiGate-500 system  
FortiGuard Web Filtering Service

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system in their datacenters for an entire suite of integrated essential security applications, and Fortinet's hosted FortiGuard Web Filtering™ Subscription Services to protect users from malicious Internet traffic and inappropriate Internet content. With the combination of Fortinet's FortiGate™ systems and FortiGuard Web Filtering™ Subscription Service, all administration and management is centralized into a single console, which frees up the IT staff's time at both school districts significantly.

Both Lethbridge and Red Deer school districts found that the FortiGate-500 system and FortiGuard Web Filtering Subscription Service from Fortinet replaced several point products from other vendors, and provided more features than the security products they were replacing. Real-time antivirus protection, traffic monitoring and reporting, and content filtering combined with enterprise class support create a security solution that is cost effective, and can adapt to user needs, which is essential for growing education networks.

### Success

"With thousands of students and administrators running different applications on our network, we needed a comprehensive network protection solution that can block the continuous network attacks we were receiving from outside sources, as well as prohibit the malicious traffic and prohibited content that our users often unknowingly download and view while using the Internet," said Matt Norton, director of technology at Lethbridge School District No. 51. "After looking at several incumbent security vendors' technology, we chose Fortinet's FortiGuard Web Filtering Subscription Service running on the FortiGate-500 system because we were impressed with the network performance, competitive price and comprehensive protection delivered by the integrated Fortinet network security platform."

"We wanted to find a better, more efficient and economical way to secure our users against malicious content-based threats rather than purchasing and operating the three single-purpose security systems we were previously using," said Jeff Murray, network administrator at Red Deer Public Schools. "Fortinet's FortiGuard Web Filtering Subscription Service and FortiGate-500 system provided us with a fully-integrated security platform for the antivirus, intrusion detection/prevention and content filtering functionality previously requiring the purchase and management of three separate boxes. Additionally, the Fortinet platform scans traffic at near wire speed so there is no degradation to our network performance."

*"We chose Fortinet's FortiGuard Web Filtering Subscription Service integrated with the FortiGate-500 system as the Fortinet security platform provided an all-in-one solution for the antivirus, intrusion prevention/detection and content filtering functionality that we were previously using three boxes for. The Fortinet platform scans traffic at near wire speed so there is no degradation to our network performance."*

Jeff Murray, Network Administrator  
Red Deer Public Schools

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