



*“Fortinet’s solutions meet all of our security needs...and provide our administrative environment peace of mind.”*

*– Álvaro Cifuentes Coordinator of Information Technologies San Ignacio de Loyola School*



## Coming Together to Ease Management and Improve Protection

San Ignacio de Loyola School in Colombia works with Fortinet to improve its infrastructure and IT services.

San Ignacio de Loyola School is a Colombian educational institution that was founded with just 200 students in the old Plazuela de San Ignacio building in 1885. In 1957, the school moved to its new location in the Estadio sector in Medellín and currently serves more than 2,125 students with over 300 faculty.

To celebrate its 130 years of teaching, the entire school staff used 2015 to work toward continuous improvement.

Earlier this decade, the school used a Web content filter, a proxy server and VPN connections, which was sufficient at the time. As the number of students and faculty rose, however, the network security and services provided by that solution were not enough, creating difficulties in meeting users’ needs.

### An Aging Architecture

Previously, the institution used a security platform that struggled to withstand increased user demands and maintain critical network services. From a functional and administrative perspective, the old network platform was not efficient for meeting the needs of the campus.

### Details

**Customer Name:** San Ignacio de Loyola School

**Industry:** Education

**Location:** Medellín, Colombia

### Need

- Choose a network security platform that would meet current needs in a scalable way and support the many services offered by the institution.

### Business Impact

- Increased network performance by more than 50 percent
- Easily manage bandwidth for critical services
- Substantially improved user satisfaction
- Increased capacity handles security incidents in stable, high-performance environment
- Supports the growth of San Ignacio de Loyola School

The old platform was slow and unstable. Services were slowed by the combination of network services and low performance. The old platform did not offer high-performance options, which limited its ability to provide critical VoIP services.

To improve its services, the school began searching for a network security platform that would meet its users' needs in a scalable way and support the many services (applications, network, etc.) offered by the institution. They wanted modern, high-performance technology that could provide advanced features and improve the speed of its IT services. Acquiring a high-performance network security platform that was easy to manage, stable, and highly cost-effective was also important.

## Finding a Solution

After its engineers reviewed the school's network architecture, they asked a number of suppliers to suggest a product that would meet San Ignacio School's needs. After a thorough investigation, the school found Fortinet to be the ideal choice from the perspective of technology, research and development, prevention capability, and consulting and support. They found Fortinet's solution to be in line with the school's current needs while also providing additional scalable benefits, allowing them to pull back in certain areas while still meeting the institution's specific needs.

San Ignacio performed a diagnostic on its network and found it to be congested by all services using the VLAN by default. This technological bottleneck led the directors of the school to consider a consolidated security solution that would integrate all of its services and also have event correlation, which would provide baseline information for IT and validate the investment on the level of TCO.

San Ignacio chose Fortinet's security architecture to empower users in the secure use of its IT services. Fortinet leading cybersecurity products provided additional benefits such as integration of different Internet channels to add bandwidth, Active Directory integration, and ease of administration, among others.

Using a well-planned methodology, Fortinet conducted preliminary investigation to better understand the school's operational requirements, allowing it to plan the ideal architecture. This resulted in a highly transparent, fast and successful implementation.

## A Highly Satisfied Customer

Since Fortinet's security architecture has been implemented on campus, the proposed security goals have been achieved; something that would not have been possible using the old architecture.

Network performance has increased by more than 50 percent. Network availability and stability have also improved dramatically, and network downtime is nonexistent. The school has been able to successfully manage bandwidth for each established VLAN, modifying them as needed.

Navigation filtering and control has been very important. The school has been able to set granular controls without any problem. The equipment has handled user demand well, with sufficient capacity to add more users later.

There will be further implementations at San Ignacio School's second campus. The institution is considering other Fortinet solutions with the goal of making each campus independent and increasing IT services, as well as providing the appropriate level of security.

## Continuing to Grow with Fortinet

"Fortinet's solutions meet all of our security needs and have positively impacted the institution, as well as provided our administrative environment peace of mind," said Alvaro Cifuentes, IT coordinator for San Ignacio de Loyola School. "The capacity of the equipment we acquired handles the security incidents our network is exposed to and allows us to easily manage bandwidth for critical services, resulting in cost savings and a substantial improvement in user satisfaction."



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