Customer-at-a-Glance

The Rowan Learning Trust was established as a Multi-Academy Trust in 2012 to maximise the potential of all children, students and adults in its schools and to support them on their journey to become outstanding. Currently the Rowan Learning Trust family comprises four schools: two high schools, an all-through alternative provision academy and a primary school.

Industry
Education

Number of Staff
2,500

Sophos Solutions
Sophos Central
Intercept X
Sophos UTM

Sophos Customer
Since 2012

Intercept X pays for itself in just one day at **The Rowan Learning Trust**

'The solutions we now have in place will grow with us and scale appropriately as we work with more schools in the future.'

John Robinson,
Information Systems Manager, The Rowan Learning Trust

By working closely with Sophos and Sophos partner company Virtue Technologies – a leading provider of IT solutions to schools and colleges – The Rowan Learning Trust has been able to consolidate and improve IT security across schools, offices and locations.

'As each school became part of The Rowan Learning Trust we were able to migrate them over to use Sophos solutions while their previous IT products continued to run temporarily in the background, so it was not at all disruptive.'

John Robinson
Information Systems Manager,
The Rowan Learning Trust

Business Challenge

The IT team at The Rowan Learning Trust manages security across four schools and also provides technical support to four other education establishments in Wigan and Knowsley. Over the course of a number of years these schools had gradually moved away from Local Authority IT provision to the Trust, a move welcomed by staff and students. When the schools transitioned from Local Authority management to the Trust, the Trust IT team found that each school was using a mix of different IT security solutions from a range of vendors. The challenge was to migrate the schools over to use one consistent solution that would be a good fit for all users.

Technology Solution

Virtue Technologies now provides the Trust with broadband lines across one single network for all the schools. According to the Trust's Information Systems Manager, John Robinson: "The Virtue broadband solution is packaged up with the Sophos UTM firewall and web filtering product and this has really helped to centralise our IT function. We now have far more flexibility and control over what each school can access site by site – such as YouTube for example – which is far better for our users."

Each school currently uses Sophos UTM, although this will soon be migrated across to Sophos Central for visibility across all schools under one single portal. Sophos Central also includes Intercept X for protecting the Trust against ransomware attacks. According to John: "Sophos Central allows more intelligent use of the data we get from our schools, keeps us protected from threats and gives us peace of mind – plus it is provided by Sophos, an industry leader."

Business Results

The Trust recently experienced an attempted ransomware attack, just shortly after Intercept X was installed. John received the email alert from Intercept X at 7pm on a Friday night and was able to see that the attack had been isolated and stopped in its tracks. John went into the office to check that everything was OK the next day and was delighted to see that the attack had not impacted the Trust at all. "Intercept X paid for itself in just one day," he says. John lists further benefits of the Sophos/Virtue solution and service as being:

‣ Excellent value for money with competitive licensing costs

‣ Simple to use from a management perspective

‣ Regularly updated products, roadmaps available and a clear plan for the future

‣ No security breaches experienced

‣ Efficient customer service and quick resolutions

"I would (and regularly do) recommend Virtue Technologies to other education establishments," concludes John. "We're also delighted we now have Sophos on board, providing us with a product that is simple to use, works well and paid for itself in just one day."

'We have an excellent, open and honest relationship with Virtue Technologies. They are very switched on and completely understand the education sector. They help us to select the products that are right for us and are very proactive whenever we experience any IT challenges.'

John Robinson
Information Systems Manager,
The Rowan Learning Trust

'The excellent relationship we have with Sophos enables us to provide high-quality products and industry insights to our customers, alongside our outstanding service. This helps us to support our customers with second-to-none IT security protection, consolidation of solutions, and cost and time saving efficiencies'

Philip McNair
Sales Manager, Virtue Technologies Limited

To find out more about Sophos solutions,

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