



Customer-at-a-Glance

University of San Carlos, Cebu City,
Philippines

Industry

Education

Website

www.usc.edu.ph

Sophos Solutions

Sophos UTM 425 (1 unit)

Sophos UTM 525 (1 unit)

Sophos UTM SG 650 (1 unit)

Sophos Endpoint Protection Advanced
(2,800 licenses)

Total number of users

27,000 (Student population)

Sophos Customer

Since 2013

University of San Carlos

The University of San Carlos found its previous security system costly and arduous to maintain. After switching to Sophos, USC was not only protected against sophisticated threats but also enabled its students and staff to stay productive.



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The University of San Carlos (USC) is a private Catholic university in Cebu City which is administered and managed by the Society of the Divine Word since 1935. With its five campuses housing all levels of educational programmes ranging from a Montessori preparatory academy, Basic Education, 80 Undergraduate and 85 Graduate programs, USC offers a broad spectrum of academic disciplines through its 8 colleges and 27 departments.

Serving over 27,000 students across primary, secondary, and over 2,500 faculties and employees, USC is the premier university in Cebu and one of the top 10 leading universities in the country ranked by the International/World QS rating among the top 300 universities in Asia.

USC is truly a 'universe-city' in its own right. Sound external affairs and a steady influx of foreign students and visiting professors have made USC a multicultural academic community bonded by the common pursuit for global standards.

"The installation was simple and straightforward with no hiccups. Security policies can be defined and enforced centrally across the campus network, without disrupting the users at any point in time."

MR WINSTON CORDOVA
Network Administrator, University of San Carlos

Business Challenge

USC's Information Resource Management – Technical and Networking Services and Helpdesk Services (IRM-TNS & HDS), a nine-man IT team found itself snowed under by security incidents, including hacking of the university's website from time to time.

The previous security solutions installed, had proved to be costly and difficult to maintain. When ensuring both the staff and students were complying with set security policies or during troubleshooting, the team had to separately check the solution protecting traffic to the Web and that managing traffic on the Local Area Network (LAN),

Adding to the challenge, a considerable number of desktop computers in USC were run on old operating systems such as Windows XP, and had only 512MB of memory. The workstations' memory had to be increased in order for the antivirus feature to function properly.

As USC continued to expand with more users and devices connected to the network, bandwidth consumption became an issue. This greatly hampered the overall security of its network as many security features could not be carried out.

Technology Solution

USC needed a robust yet resource-friendly security solution to meet its needs. During the evaluation, the IT team was impressed with Sophos's ease of installation, and its robust and comprehensive security features.

The outstanding features include the use of Intel's multi-core technology and PCI-Express gigabit-speed ports which offers firewall throughput rates of more than 23Gbps, mail and web filters to protect users and servers, and control applications for web usage.

A suite of Sophos UTM appliances were then rolled out consecutively across two of its campuses - the Talamban and Downtown campus – which had Internet connection. This allowed the team to plan and manage the transition with technical support from its reseller, All Links Trading.

A unit of Sophos UTM 425 was deployed at the Talamban campus to protect internal servers while a Sophos UTM 525 was deployed at the Downtown campus. An SG 650 unit was also deployed to help protect and enhance bandwidth performance at Talamban campus public webservers, local network and its Wi-Fi network.

In addition, Sophos Endpoint Protection Advanced (EPA) was also rolled out to protect 2,800 workstations against sophisticated threats and data loss.

Business Results

“Cost is a key consideration for many organisations and we appreciate the lower total cost of ownership afforded to us by Sophos,” Mr. Cordova said. “Renewing our previous solutions would have cost more than the amount we originally purchased them for.”

Sophos's single management interface, which eliminates the complexity of security control management, detailed logs and reporting functions, is also in line with the university's future roadmap to centralise the IT management of all campuses to their main data centre at the Talamban campus.

With the centralised management platform, and the integration of EPA Web filtering features with that of the UTMs, USC can now define and enforce security policies across the campus network centrally, including the rolling out of web policies and blocking out access to entertainment and bandwidth-intensive video sites. The IT team can also easily get a bird's eye view of both the traffic to the Web and traffic to the LAN to monitor and detect any malicious network traffic.

The Sophos Endpoint Protection Advanced, that is installed on the desktops, does not require high memory consumption either. This helps to conserve bandwidth consumption and accelerate the working speed of applications for both students and staff.

“We were always on the lookout for a single brand that could do it all and we found that with Sophos—strong security protection, easy maintenance, a user-friendly set up — all with a low total cost of ownership.”

MS. RHEA ROWENA RIVERA

Head, IRM – TNS & HDS, University of San Carlos



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