SOPHOS

NELSON AND COLNE
COLLEGE

Customer-at-a-Glance

Nelson and Colne College was founded in the early 1970s. It now serves the educational needs of around 1,700 full-time and 5,000 part-time students.

Industry
Education

Number of Users
2,200

Sophos Solutions
Sophos UTM and
Sophos Complete Security Suite

Sophos Customer
Since 2011

Nelson and Colne College procure Sophos from Eduserv and revolutionise their IT security

'Sophos UTM is great for education, it offers one single hit in one single box.'

AMANDA MILLS
Head of IT and Network Services
Nelson and Colne College

Head of IT and Network Services Amanda Mills joined Nelson and Colne College in 2011. Since then the college has procured Sophos Complete Security Suite from the Eduserv framework and bought Sophos UTM as an additional solution. Sophos is the only security vendor on the Eduserv framework: eradicating the need for a tender process and offering fair and reasonable pricing for education. Through the use of Sophos products, Amanda feels that the team has revolutionised IT security at the college.

'Sophos UTM is great value for money - you can have two Sophos UTM firewalls for failover and only pay for one license. It's doubly cost effective.'

AMANDA MILLS
Head of IT and Network Services
Nelson and Colne College

'The Sophos solutions are really easy to learn about and manage ourselves.'

AMANDA MILLS
Head of IT and Network Services
Nelson and Colne College

Business challenges

When Amanda started working at Nelson and Colne College she implemented Wi-Fi and stabilised the IT as a priority, driven by the demand for Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) by students and staff. "We wanted to take IT to students rather than vice versa and be able to move fully functioning laptops around the college" she says.

Amanda also faced three further major challenges including:

1. **Segregating college and student network access**
   "The challenge was not to allow the college and student network access to meet so we segregated the SSIDs and at IP level we separated BYOD from the college IP address. Students are still able to transfer files but the college network cannot be infected with a virus (a) because it's a separate network and (b) because of the antivirus element of Sophos Complete Security Suite."

2. **Extensive protection requirements**
   Amanda has turned the IT infrastructure around: adding security frameworks, creating virtualised environments, providing cloud-based student email with Office 365, and cashless catering. The college uses 400 different types of software and the team protects 1,000 endpoints as well as personal mobile devices. People want to access the network using a variety of devices so Amanda has her hands full, supporting everything and keeping everyone secure.

3. **Incumbent solutions**
   When Amanda started working at the college, F-Secure antivirus and the Microsoft ISA firewall were in place. According to Amanda, they were adequate but challenging to work with due to poor central management capabilities. "We were reliant on end users informing us that a virus had emerged so we were working reactively and unable to audit the equipment. Essentially we were working blind". The impact was that security events were taking place and the IT team were unable to track and trace the underlying causes.

The technical solution

The IT team at the college procured Sophos Complete Security Suite through Eduserv to replace F-Secure. They also replaced the Microsoft ISA firewall with Sophos UTM and rolled out the new solutions during the summer holidays.

Amanda chose Sophos over and above all the other big players in the market. She believes Sophos offers greater value for money - even beyond SonicWALL solutions. She also values the easy to use interface and the crib sheets that were 'very helpful' during the transition.

'Sophos support has also been really good throughout," concludes Amanda. "I always get through to someone who can help, there are no international call centres in different time zones and we get assistance whenever we need it. With Sophos we never feel like we are on our own.'

AMANDA MILLS
Head of IT and Network Services
Nelson and Colne College

Business benefits

Nelson and Colne College list the many benefits of the Sophos IT security 'revolution' as being…

‣ Value for money and no tender process though the Eduserv framework, ideal for education establishments

‣ Cost savings, time savings and a 'fantastic product' compared with incumbent and competing solutions

‣ The ability to provide separate staff and student Wi-Fi networks

‣ Home security rights for staff

‣ The feel good factor – a 'fantastic product'

‣ Fast and clean deployment: "We deployed Sophos straight from the enterprise console. It travelled to the desktops, uninstalled F-Secure and installed itself. It was an easy deployment."

‣ One single place to get every security element they need

‣ Monitoring, alerting and reporting from the central console

‣ Lessening the window of threat

‣ An improved perception of the IT team as a result

To find out more about Sophos Solutions, call **(0)8447 671131** or email **sales@sophos.com**

SOPHOS