

# Case Study

## K-12 Education

### CUSTOMER SUCCESS

## Eliminate Internet connection issues and automate Internet Security

#### CUSTOMER:

Nicholas County School District  
Summersville, USA  
(2500 users, 16 locations)

#### CYMPHONIX PRODUCT:

Network Composer DC30

NICHOLAS COUNTY  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

#### Situation

Nicholas County School District is home to 16 schools in Summersville, WV, including two middle schools and two high schools. As a whole, the district focuses on teaching and learning for the 21st century and recognizes the importance of utilizing technology in the classroom. There are 850 public access computers available to students, teachers, and faculty between the four middle and high schools alone, which are used regularly to encourage continued research and cultivate positive student experiences.

Due to the large number of computers on the network, the schools were regularly experiencing decreased bandwidth speeds, which ultimately led to an increased number of complaints from instructors and pupils alike. The schools' IT administrators recognized that the reason for the lagging speeds was due in part to users having the ability to bypass current content filters and access sites that ordinarily would have been blocked. The issue they ran into, however, was that the network as it stood did not provide the necessary visibility that would allow them to pinpoint who was bypassing the filters and how, or identify which sites were the primary cause for bogging down the system.

#### Challenge

Nicholas County School Administrators were originally forced to implement IT solutions as outlined by the State Board of Education; however, a scrubbed deal with a Cymphonix competitor left the IT staff with the ability to qualify a

purchase that would specifically meet all of the school's individual needs while staying within the district's budgetary parameters. Not only did they need to implement content filtering to protect its student population while maintaining the integrity of its education infrastructure, the school district needed to reveal which programs, websites, and applications were causing its Internet to slow.

#### Solution

While attending a technology conference in Charleston, South Carolina, one of the Nicholas County District's IT administrators came across a demonstration of the Cymphonix Network Composer DC30 and immediately recognized how the product would provide a complete solution to his network woes back home. He immediately arranged to have a device installed in each of the middle and high schools and the benefits of the Network Composer were identified within the first two weeks of implementation.

Since the Cymphonix Network Composer is an in-line device that provides deep-packet inspection of all Internet traffic and activity, the

Reveal.  
Optimize.  
Protect.



schools were able to stop students from bypassing its content filters using anonymous proxies. Additionally, the Network Composer gave IT administrators the ability to reveal activities across the entire network and found certain instructors were periodically engaged in Internet gaming throughout the day.



“The webinar was incredibly informative and helped us to further realize the capabilities of the Network Composer. The product has since provided more relevant and helpful information than we could have ever imagined possible,”

Buell Moses,  
Technology Specialist;  
Nicholas County School District



The biggest success, however, came when the Network composer identified a group of public access computers whose settings had been compromised, causing them to constantly hammer the Internet searching for updates to download and install. This steady activity from such a small number of machines was actually consuming over 50% of the school's bandwidth. Once these machines were discovered and their settings corrected, the district no longer experiences a lagging Internet connection or complaints from students and faculty related to decreased speeds.

After attending a Cymphonix webinar, the Nicholas County IT administrators were given even more insight into the benefits of their investment. They learned how to optimize their network by shaping bandwidth to allow certain websites and applications they considered vital to enhancing the learning experience take priority over those that, while not considered harmful, were not critical to the education process. They also learned how to drill even further down into the network data using the Network Composer's easy-to-use reporting interface.

“The webinar was incredibly informative and helped us to further realize the capabilities of the Network Composer. The product has since provided more relevant and helpful information than we could have ever imagined possible,” said Buell Moses, Technology Specialist for the Nicholas County School District.

#### Success

The Cymphonix Network Composer was effortlessly able to resolve Nicholas County School District's issues with limited bandwidth, slow Internet connections, and provided content filtering all with one, easily integrated and cost-effective device. Network Composer revealed the problem areas within the network, allowed administrators to optimize their Internet connection, and ultimately automated the district's entire Internet security framework.

#### See for Yourself

See how Network Composer delivers visibility, security, and performance in one reliable package. Contact your Authorized Cymphonix Reseller for an online demonstration or call or email Cymphonix at 866-511-1155 or [sales@cymphonix.com](mailto:sales@cymphonix.com)



#### About Cymphonix

Cymphonix Corporation, headquartered in Sandy, Utah, uses patent pending Cross-Layer Intelligence™ (XLI™) technology to provide unmatched network threat protection and resource optimization. With the powerful XLI engine, Cymphonix products seamlessly integrate network protection, application performance, and traffic visibility into a single, easily managed solution. Leading the Cymphonix product line is Network Composer, a smart gateway appliance that helps organizations understand at a glance who is abusing network resources and with what applications - enabling problems to be corrected instantly through a clear, easy-to-manage interface.



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