



American School of Dubai Saves Tens of Thousands of Dollars Annually with CyberHound

The American School of Dubai, an independent not-for-profit American community school, is saving tens of thousands of dollars annually through CyberHound's education-focused solution. It is also enabling the school to more effectively secure their network and prevent users from bypassing security and access policies.

Technology plays a fundamental role in facilitating learning at the school especially in the middle and high school year levels. The school has recently implemented industry leading network technology, including an Aruba wireless system. This has allowed them to embrace technology more broadly within the curriculum and improve learning outcomes.

A Modern Era of Learning

The school has 350 staff and 1,700 students across K-12 with those in the middle and high school participating in a 1:1 student owned MacBook laptop program. Educators at the school are very technology savvy and proactively incorporate technology, eTextbooks and online media such as YouTube videos into their classrooms. Students in the younger year levels also have daily interactions with technology in the classroom through iPads.

The school has embraced Google Documents and Applications as a tool allowing students and teachers to easily communicate and access tools and content outside the school network.

The Challenge

The school's ICT team found their previous solution was not designed for the education market and as a result it did not successfully cater for their specific requirements. They frequently had challenges with support making it difficult for them to resolve issues quickly, impacting learning time in the classroom.

"Support from our previous solution was not very responsive and when assisting us with specific problems, they didn't appear overly knowledgeable about their own solution," said Peter Chang ICT Manager.

Ensuring students have a safe and productive online environment is a priority for the school's ICT team. They discovered students were bypassing security policies through the use of VPN and torrent applications, gaining access to potentially inappropriate content. It was a priority for the ICT team to have a solution that could effectively identify these connections and manage them seamlessly.

The school's previous firewall solution restricted the link speed to their core network to 1Gbps, even though their internet connections provided additional throughput.

"The CyberHound Solution delivers us fantastic value for money. We save \$25,000 USD per year and have a solution with more relevant features for us."

Grant Weaver, IT Director
American School of Dubai
www.asdubai.org



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Peter Chang, ICT Manager
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Solution

The high renewal cost and mounting challenges of the school's previous solution forced the ICT team to assess alternative solutions.

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In order to address the school's specific requirements the ICT team implemented two CyberHound solutions with six internet links connecting to each. Through CyberHound's PipePlus feature the ICT team can now evenly load balance traffic over their multiple internet links ensuring consistent and constant connectivity for downloading, especially Google documents. The failover and disaster recovery capabilities provided by the CyberHound solution also adds great value for the school.

CyberHound's strong partnership with Aruba ensures its technology integration with their wireless solution is certified, meaning everything just works. Additional benefits of this relationship experienced by the school are the ease of the BYO onboarding process, particularly secondary devices such as iPhones and tablets, and the assurance that both parties address all support requests quickly.

Delivering on education specific requirements

The CyberHound solution is specifically designed for schools and delivers a number of specific benefits to the school.

- **Easy to manage full application control** – together with CyberHound's SSL inspection the ICT team can now effectively identify and manage or block a range of applications. This ensures students are not exposed to inappropriate content or get distracted from their studies.
- **Boosted network performance** – CyberHound's Content Acceleration Platform allows students and teachers to download OS X and iOS updates locally and on demand vastly quicker than their previous solution. IT staff are no longer involved in managing these updates as the performance and ease of use is excellent.
- **Improved network utilisation** – the CyberHound solution allows the school to enjoy 10Gbps to their core network. This ensures fast downloading of locally cached content. It has dramatically improved the productivity of staff and students.
- **Extended pastoral care efforts** – CyberHound's unique ClearView technology compliments the school's pastoral efforts. Key school staff receive daily reports enabling them to proactively follow up on vital evidenced based information.
- **Quick and valuable support** – *"The CyberHound Support team are very responsive and we generally get a quick resolution to any issue raised."*

Overall the CyberHound Solution is allowing the school to save money and enjoy the benefits of a more education focused solution. *"The CyberHound Solution delivers us fantastic value for money. We save \$25,000 USD per year and have a solution with more relevant features for us,"* Grant Weaver, IT Director.

"When transitioning our previous solution out of the environment the change over was very quick and we received great support from the team."

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