

Frederick Irwin Anglican School Provides a Seamless BYOD Experience through CyberHound's Innovative Solutions

A Western Australian K-12 school with 1,500 students is providing its staff and students with a seamless and secure Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) experience utilising CyberHound's unique platform.

Frederick Irwin Anglican School recently rolled out a BYOD environment to 600 of its students across Years 6-9. While delivering excellent learning opportunities this also introduced a number of challenges that the IT department needed to address. Three of the key challenges for the school were:

- Managing security risks
- Optimising internet performance and bandwidth consumption
- Making BYOD easy for students to use and for IT staff to manage

With CyberHound's solution these challenges were able to be addressed to ensure the BYOD implementation journey was successful.

"CyberHound has been significant in enabling us to achieve the optimal BYOD solution and user experience we were seeking," said IT Manager Dean Smith. *"CyberHound has ensured the BYOD experience is as seamless as possible for our students and catered to our specific requirements."*

The Situation

Frederick Irwin Anglican School is a co-educational day school located approximately 70 kilometres south of Perth. The use of technology to facilitate and enhance learning has become an integral part of education at the school. Students in all years at the school have access to technology for learning in some form, be it 1:1 school-provided laptops, shared school-provided laptops and iPads or BYOD. The implementation of the BYOD environment presented challenges for IT staff in ensuring the security of the network. They were concerned about being able to block potentially infected devices being brought onto the school network, and providing a consistent learning platform for students.

As part of the efforts to increase efficiency in the network and deliver a consistent learning framework the IT department provided BYOD students with a virtual desktop environment. Students were directed to access all core applications and the Internet through this environment. Many, however, continued to access the Internet directly from their local devices putting further strain on the school's bandwidth.

The school is located in beachside Mandurah and whilst being a lovely pocket of the world, access to good quality bandwidth is limited. As a result, one of the key focuses for the IT department was to ensure students used the Internet appropriately. To enhance the current bandwidth Frederick Irwin Anglican School had already implemented CyberHound's PipePlus technology, aggregating their multiple DSL links to create faster and more reliable overall internet performance. With the rising demands on its Internet bandwidth the IT team required further assistance to ensure students were not misusing it by downloading the latest movies and games.

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Dean Smith, IT Manager,
Frederick Irwin Anglican School



"CyberHound has allowed us to take advantage of the network we have today whilst positioning us well to embrace future developments as our requirements change. We were very happy to extend our service from CyberHound and value their ongoing commitment to making BYOD work for us."

Dean Smith, IT Manager,
Frederick Irwin Anglican School

CyberHound provides schools with the ability to optimise and manage their existing internet services. We help students engage in new forms of learning while also supporting teachers to confidently use digital content and resources without the worry of access, internet speed or reliability. Over the last 17 years, CyberHound has developed the most comprehensive learning enablement and cyber safety solution for schools and our solution is now the benchmark for schools in Australia and internationally.

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IT staff also wanted the ability to set up multiple networks, such as one for visitors and one for BYODs, providing various levels of security and restrictions for different networks. To do this they wanted a solution that could be easily managed with zero replication of effort.

The Solution

When embarking on the path of BYOD implementation, the school wanted to implement a network solution it had confidence in technically, catering to its specific requirements, and ensure it would receive the level of support it required.

Benefits

As the school had an existing CyberHound solution, students and staff were familiar with the way it worked so there were minimal changes to the user experience. The school has also been able to further streamline the management of its network. CyberHound has enabled the school to achieve tangible results in three key challenge areas: ensuring security of the BYOD network, making it easy for students to use and for IT staff to manage and conserving their bandwidth consumption.

In addition, the CyberHound solution achieved the following benefits:

- CyberHound's simple 'on-boarding' process for BYO devices ensures all security certificates are installed and enabled on all devices without the involvement of the IT department
- A safe web browsing environment, including all HTTPS websites, meaning the IT department can be confident that students cannot access inappropriate websites
- Easy quota management for students accessing the Internet has ensured that a daily download allowance is not exceeded and bandwidth can be prioritised for educational purposes
- The implementation of Intrusion Prevention rules to the BYOD network ensures infected laptops are blocked from the network and from accessing the Internet - saving the school from potential blacklisting and also from widespread virus infection of other laptops
- Enabling students to use their school sign-on credentials across BYO and school provided devices means that IT staff only have to maintain one set of user names and passwords saving them time
- Seamlessly passing sign-on credentials through to Active Directory for authentication provides further streamlining in the user experience and reduces user administration for IT staff
- The solution provides the school with a customisable 'Welcome Page' where students sign in when accessing the Internet. This enables the school to educate its students on the school's acceptable Internet use policy and also to present additional messages or software resources applicable to the student.

“ We were excited to extend the capabilities of our existing CyberHound implementation and are reassured in our decision as the team at CyberHound continually maintain a high level of support. It is also very valuable to get an insight into the product roadmap presented at regular User Groups so we can plan for any new features they deliver. ”

Dean Smith, IT Manager,
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