
CASE STUDY

School: IU 13
State: Pennsylvania
District Size: 35,000 Students
Solution: Total Traffic Control
Focus: Filtering, Proxies, Web 2.0, EVL



“Total Traffic Control allows us to provide CIPA-compliant Internet access, but goes beyond that by allowing us to give the districts the customizability they need.”

Mike Shellenberger
Systems Administrator
Lancaster-Lebanon Intermediate Unit (IU 13)

Lightspeed Customer Success

IU 13 Provides Flexible, Customizable Filtering to the Districts It Services

Overview

Lancaster-Lebanon Intermediate Unit (IU 13) is a regional educational service agency that partners with the 22 school districts in Lancaster and Lebanon counties to provide cost-effective school-based services. Among the services IU 13 provides to its districts is a WAN. This service provides connectivity between school districts to encourage collaborative projects, including distance learning and resource sharing, network design and management. It also provides web filtering, to protect students from harmful materials on the Internet.

Challenge

Each of the districts IU 13 serves has distinct goals and needs related to its use of technology and Internet access; and within each of those districts, different users and groups require different levels of access. IU 13 needed a filtering solution that was flexible enough to meet the diverse needs of its clients. With their previous filtering solution, when one district requested that a site be blocked, it was then blocked for all districts and all users across the WAN.

“In 2006, we recognized the need to replace the existing filtering solution for our WAN network with a new solution that would give our districts the ability to do more granular filtering,” explains Mike Shellenberger, Systems Administrator for the agency. “We needed to upgrade our filtering solution so each district would have more features, flexibility and functionality. From the technical side, we were also looking for a redundant solution that would allow us to stay running in the event of a hardware failure. Because we serve as an ISP for several districts, the level of expectation for availability is high.”

Solution

IU 13 found the solution to its technical and filtering challenges with Lightspeed Total Traffic Control. A key differentiator that set Web Access Manager, the filtering component of Total Traffic Control, ahead of competitors IU 13 investigated: proxy blocking. “Proxies can be a significant problem. Total Traffic Control filters proxies very well, particularly SSL proxies. Lightspeed has helped us virtually eliminate the proxy situation,” Shellenberger explains.

And to meet their primary need of flexibility and customizability for different districts and users, Total Traffic Control offers policy creation and access differentiation by user, IP, group, organizational unit, or domain. “Total Traffic Control allows us to provide CIPA-compliant Internet access, but goes beyond that by allowing us to give the districts the customizability they need,” says Shellenberger.

Now, the 35,000 workstations across IU 13’s WAN are filtered according to the unique policies each district sets, rather than according to global settings. “We provide tiered administrative policies so districts can control what is blocked and allowed within their own district,” Shellenberger explains. Mike Deakey, network systems administrator for the Lampeter Strasburg school district within IU 13, uses this flexibility to ensure appropriate access for different users. “I was able to configure it with multiple levels of filtering: tighter for students, looser for staff, and very relaxed for administrators,” Deakey shares.



The struggle to find a balance between learning and safety is something all districts face as they integrate Web 2.0 tools into learning environments. “We are forced to think about how to use Web 2.0 tools properly in a more controlled environment and how to use them for education,” explains Debakey. “Web 2.0 is valuable, but without proper set up and configuration it can become an open door to the world. Now, with the Educational Video Library, teachers can safely use YouTube. Teachers share the content they want, but EVL strips out all of the comments and links.”

To help ensure that the policies each district creates are being enforced, and to monitor traffic across the WAN, IU 13 and its district-clients rely on Total Traffic Control’s comprehensive reports. “We utilize built-in reporting functionality to get an overview of what is happening on our network. It gives us a tremendous amount of insight into what is happening on our network,” shares Shellenberger. “We also rely on the HR Report, and pass it along anytime someone from HR requests Internet access history for an individual. We share the reports with principals at each district so they can make sure staff and students are using the Web appropriately.”

Conclusion

With Web Access Manager, the filtering component of Total Traffic Control, IU 13 is able to provide a flexible and customizable filtering solution to the various districts it serves, allowing them to create, monitor and enforce the policies they create. They have also virtually eliminated proxy tunnels around their filter.

In addition to the flexibility of the filtering itself, the flexibility of the component features of Total Traffic Control provide additional features—as needed locally by IU 13, or individually by districts. The bandwidth management capabilities allow IU 13 to control bandwidth and ensure that each district receives a fair share of Internet access. IU 13 has also implemented Power Manager to save on energy consumption and utility rates at their site. Security Manager is utilized for anti-virus on Mac clients.



About Total Traffic Control

Monitor, manage, filter, and secure your school’s network with a single solution

Total Traffic Control is the complete solution for managing your school network’s usage, health, and security. With this comprehensive solution you can monitor user activity, ensure Acceptable Use Policies are being followed (on email, the Web, or the desktop—both on the network and off), reduce dangerous and costly security threats, ensure school resources are utilized safely and effectively, and easily view and share critical information with custom reports.

About Lightspeed

Lightspeed Systems Inc., founded in 2000, develops comprehensive network security and management solutions for the education market. We are committed to helping schools operate their networks effectively and efficiently, so educators can provide safe online teaching and learning environments.

Our software is used in more than 1,000 school districts in the United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia to protect more than 5 million students. For the past two years, Lightspeed Systems has been recognized on the Inc. 5,000 list as one of the fastest-growing private companies.

Exceptional Service and Support

Our feature-rich solutions designed specifically for schools are the answer to your network management and security needs. But our unparalleled service and support mean our solutions will continue to deliver, long after their easy implementation. With any *Lightspeed Systems* solution, you can depend on:

- 24/7 live-person phone technical support.
- Comprehensive online knowledge bases.
- The Lightspeed Wiki, rife with user collaboration and product expertise.

Professional Development and Training

Professional Services:

We provide customized, collaborative professional development services to address your specific needs. For more information, please contact: ps@lightspeedsystems.com

Training:

To help you fully leverage your investment in Lightspeed Systems solutions, we offer an array of training options.

- Online introductory training and user demonstration videos.
- Administrator certification.
- Regional training throughout the U.S.

Contact Us

Learn more about our products and services at www.lightspeedsystems.com

We Welcome Your Calls and Emails

Lightspeed Systems
1800 19th Street
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Main: 877.447.6244
Support: 800.444.9267
Sales: sales@lightspeedsystems.com
Support: support@lightspeedsystems.com



See the powerful reporting, policy creation, and customization features of Total Traffic Control, and our component solutions, for yourself. Schedule an online demonstration: www.lightspeedsystems.com/demo