

Addressing Today's Educational Institutions' Network Security Challenges

Challenge

- › Facilitating secure branch connectivity
- › Maintaining robust internal security
- › Slow and complex network security deployments
- › Complex network and security management

Solution

- › NGFW with IPS, IDS, and multilayer inspection to block malicious traffic.
- › SD-WAN for secure, reliable site-to-site and site-to-cloud connectivity.
- › SD-WAN Orchestrator for quick deployment and simplified VPN management.
- › Zero-touch deployment and high availability for constant connectivity.

Outcome

- › Secure connectivity between campuses and cloud resources.
- › Improved network security, protecting against malware, ransomware, and DDoS attacks
- › Enhanced user experience for seamless online learning.
- › Simplified network management and reduced costs compared to traditional solutions.
- › Fast deployment and scalable architecture to meet the needs of institutions, faculty, and students.

The education sector faces growing networking challenges with remote learning, cloud services, and distributed campuses. Universities need seamless connectivity across external providers and secure site-to-site links between campuses. A robust networking solutions must ensure secure internal traffic, effective segmentation, and scalable performance. With limited IT resources, universities require a centralized platform for streamlined network management and quick, flexible deployment to keep up with changing demands.

Forcepoint Network Security delivers industry-leading network security with native secure SD-WAN connectivity in one platform. The network security platform acts as both a border gateway to the internet and an internal gateway for network segmentation across departments and faculties. To support universities with distributed campuses, we enable reliable connections between branch locations through site-to-site VPNs. Internal network security and segmentation are efficiently managed with an additional NGFW cluster, which can be configured with virtual contexts. The fast and flexible deployment capabilities, combined with advanced cluster performance, ensure scalability and adaptability. Additionally, our Security Management Center (SMC) management platform offers administrators a powerful, centralized tool for seamless network management.

Solution: Forcepoint Network Security

Seamless Connectivity with Multiple Connections:

Forcepoint Secure SD-WAN configures multiple ISP connections without extra routers or switches, using any IP-based connection with a dedicated IP range. Standby links activate only if the primary ones fail for always-on connectivity. Traffic is dynamically balanced across links based on performance or bandwidth, and new connections automatically shift to healthy links. This approach ensures schools maintain reliable connectivity during peak times to prevent disruptions, improving both performance and reliability.

Network Segmentation and Security:

Forcepoint can create segmentation policies to secure internal networks areas across departments or faculties. By segmenting traffic and leveraging rich security such features as advanced Deep Packet Inspection (DPI) and Intrusion Prevention Systems (IPS), Forcepoint protects sensitive student data, academic systems and internal communications from internal and external threats, enabling educational institutions to comply with data privacy regulations such as the EU GDPR and the US Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

Secure Remote and Cloud Connectivity:

With site-to-site and site-to cloud VPN connectivity, Forcepoint ensures secure and reliable connections between distributed campus locations and cloud environments. This establishes encrypted, high-performance tunnels between different campuses, ensuring consistent connectivity and enabling secure communication and collaboration across various remote locations and cloud resources. Additionally, Forcepoint's SD-WAN Orchestrator simplifies the management of multiple VPN connections across various service providers and external networks. By providing a centralized point of control, the Orchestrator can automatically negotiate and establish secure VPN tunnels between different providers, remote campuses and cloud services. This means that educational institutions can connect securely to multiple resources without manually configuring each connection, ensuring consistent, reliable and efficient communication across diverse network environments.

Fast Deployment and Flexibility:

The SD-WAN Orchestrator also simplifies deployment by automating the connection process between multiple sites and networks, reducing the need for extensive manual configuration. For an educational institution looking to expand or integrate additional campuses or services, the SD-WAN Orchestrator automatically sets up the necessary secure connections without requiring complex, time-consuming setups for each individual link. To further expedite deployment, Forcepoint utilizes Zero-Touch Provisioning (ZTP), making it easy to quickly set up security devices across the educational institution's network.

Cluster Capabilities and Scalability:

Forcepoint enhances performance and scalability through clustering technologies like active-active and active-passive clustering. These configurations ensure load balancing, redundancy and failover capabilities, allowing educational networks to scale seamlessly as traffic demands grow while maintaining high availability and network resilience.

Centralized Management:

Forcepoint's Security Management Center (SMC) delivers centralized management, offering a unified dashboard for administrators to manage network configurations and enforce security policies across the entire campus network. This centralized solution simplifies configuration, reporting and response management, ensuring consistent security practices across all locations while enhancing operational efficiency.

Benefits for Educational Institutions:

- Seamless and optimized connection
- Reduced external and internal threats
- Resilient and scalable network
- Simplified management and deployment

Forcepoint Network Security delivers consistent security policies and enforcement across various environments, providing secure connectivity to users and systems they need to stay productive, all while reducing and simplifying networking operations. The solution also offers advanced threat protection services, such as Forcepoint Remote Browser Isolation (RBI) to prevent web-borne threats, and Advanced Malware Detection and Protection (AMDP) to provide an additional layer of security to detect and prevent zero-day attacks.

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