<)> **FORESCOUT**®

Norwich School

Norwich School Selects Forescout for Increased Network Visibility, Endpoint Compliance and Mitigation of Potential Security Breaches

P2P
applications blocked

£500K
fine avoided by securing Personally Identifiable Information

Flexible
and logical policy engine, requiring minimal overhead

NORWICH SCHOOL
PRAEMIA VIRTUTIS HONORES

Industry
Education

Environment
1,050 students and approximately 250 staff

Challenge
- Norwich School wanted to increase its network security by enhancing visibility and ensuring compliance of users and devices connecting to the network, to help mitigate potential breaches

Security Solution
- Forescout platform

Overview

Norwich School is a co-educational, independent day school for pupils aged seven to eighteen. Set in the Cathedral Close, Norwich School is a traditional, yet lively place where boys and girls enjoy a rounded and stimulating education. The school is characterised by strong, warm relationships and a profound appreciation of scholarship.

Business Challenge

Norwich School required a network access control (NAC) solution to increase the visibility and security compliance of devices being used by its 1,050 students and approximately 250 staff, in one location across multiple buildings.

Why Forescout?

After considering solutions from Forescout, Bradford Networks and Aruba, Norwich School arranged a trial of the Forescout platform via its preferred security partner Sec-1.

When asked why he chose the Forescout platform, Steve Banyard, Network Manager at Norwich School, commented, "The Forescout platform, in our opinion, had an easier to use interface which makes setting up, managing and viewing potential threats a far easier task. With a small team it was critical that NAC wouldn't take up too much of our time, both in the set up phase and beyond. Another major appeal was that we wouldn't have to modify our network to integrate the product. Also, there are multiple ways to enforce security policies depending on your environment and the client agent is optional."

The fact other, similar schools were already using the Forescout platform further convinced Norwich School to purchase Forescout's solution.

"The Forescout platform maximises our network security, has already saved us time — which equates to money — and helps us to mitigate potential security breaches. In the future, we plan on implementing most of its features."

— Steve Banyard, Network Manager, Norwich School

Business Impact

Time and Cost Savings
Steve Banyard, Network Manager at Norwich School, explained, "The Forescout platform has already saved us time, which equates to money, by allowing us to easily track down which devices are plugged in to what switch port — which aids VLAN setup and when troubleshooting network related issues."

Real-Time Visibility, NAC and Threat Prevention
The Forescout platform was deployed during the summer of 2014 and initially used for visibility purposes only, to correctly classify devices and users. Since then, the school has extended its use of the Forescout platform; it is now used for network access control, for example, disallowing non-corporate devices from accessing network resources. Forescout's next-generation NAC platform is also used for threat prevention, to block malware attacks on the network (IPS) by continuously scanning for malicious hosts, impersonation, ARP spoofing and dual-homed devices.

Policy Creation and Enforcement
Norwich School has built up customised security policies via the Forescout platform, in line with specific and changing requirements. Steve Banyard said, "The policy process is logical so it's easy to add and amend them as we go along." Banyard cites granular control of security policies as one of the top three benefits provided by the Forescout platform, alongside network visibility and ease of use.

Blocking P2P Applications
Steve Banyard commented, "P2P applications are commonly used to acquire illegal and copyrighted data and also take up valuable bandwidth which could be used for educational needs, so it is important for Norwich School to stop that activity. P2P is blocked at our firewall level but, as with all security, it is best to take a layered approach in case someone finds a loophole in the system. The Forescout platform appliance looks for multiple P2P applications such as BitTorrent, uTorrent and FrostWire among many others that are running on an endpoint. The Forescout system can kill the process, notify an administrator or both, depending on how we want to handle the situation."

Security Product Integration
Forescout's orchestration capabilities enables the Forescout platform and other IT systems to exchange information and mitigate a wide variety of issues. Norwich School benefits from these opportunities by integrating the Forescout platform with their Aerohive wireless switches, to get visibility of wireless clients and where they are connected.

Looking Forward
To Norwich School, the Forescout platform is more than just network access control, and it offers the following advice for other UK educational establishments looking to implement a NAC solution:

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