

UC Hastings College of Law throws the book at ransomware

Malwarebytes blocks advanced threats and frees time for IT team

Business profile

The mission of the University of California (UC) Hastings College of the Law is to provide an academic program of the highest quality, based upon scholarship, teaching, and research, to a diverse student body. Founded in 1878, UC Hastings was the first law school in California. As ransomware and malware began to disrupt faculty and staff systems, UC Hastings took the stand in its own defense with Malwarebytes.

Business challenge

Taking back staff time

Whether it's researching legal precedent, innovating teaching techniques, or managing operations—downtime due to malware is a serious disruption for UC Hastings faculty and staff. Until recently, the college had deployed Microsoft Forefront Endpoint Protection on its Windows systems. As attackers began using techniques like ransomware and advanced malware to attack the school, that protection wasn't able to keep up.

Ransomware attacks encrypted file servers on several occasions. Attacks from PUPs and malware designed to steal data increased daily. Even when the antivirus product detected malware, it wasn't able to effectively remediate it. IT staff restored systems from backup files, but attacks created downtime for users, and remediation ate up even more time for IT staff.

"We have to be very thrifty about staff time," said Ernesto Diaz, Desktop & Server Enterprise Support for UC Hastings. "At least twice a week we'd have to clean up an infection, which took me away from other support tickets. It definitely affected my daily work."

OVERVIEW

INDUSTRY

Education

BUSINESS CHALLENGE

Protect intellectual property and prevent staff and faculty disruption due to ransomware

IT ENVIRONMENT

Microsoft System Center Endpoint Protection, layered enterprise security

SOLUTION

Malwarebytes Endpoint Security

RESULTS

Reduced ransomware infections to zero

Reclaimed days of IT staff time by eliminating remediation of infected machines

Gained protection equal to that of much larger universities



RANSOMWARE WENT TO ZERO AFTER WE DEPLOYED MALWAREBYTES. WE EASILY MONITOR EVERY SYSTEM NOW AND DON'T HAVE TO GUESS WHAT IS GOING ON. MALWAREBYTES GIVES US A STRONGER LAYER OF PROTECTION.

RONALD PROSCHAN, ASSOCIATE IT DIRECTOR,
UC HASTINGS

The solution

Malwarebytes Endpoint Security

The IT team wanted a better way to fight cyberthreats rather than reacting after an infection had occurred. They also wanted better insight into their endpoints to monitor threats. Having had previous experience using Malwarebytes for system remediation, they turned to Malwarebytes for proactive, real-time protection.

“Malwarebytes Endpoint Security provided the real-time protection we wanted with the ability to monitor systems,” said Ronald Proschan, Associate IT Director for UC Hastings. “Seeing the product in action was absolutely convincing. It made our choice easy.”

The IT team deployed Malwarebytes to the college’s endpoints using Microsoft System Center Configuration Manager. Immediately, the endpoints reported into the Malwarebytes management console, giving the team visibility into usage and threat detection.

Effective blocking

Malwarebytes blocks thousands of PUPs, ransomware, and malicious exploits. The IT team no longer worries about malware that can activate crippling attacks later, steal passwords while users browse the Internet, or conduct command-and-control sessions on endpoints.

“Ransomware went to zero after we deployed Malwarebytes,” said Proschan. “We easily monitor every system now and don’t have to guess what is going on. Malwarebytes gives us a stronger layer of protection.”

Recapturing valuable time

Malwarebytes quarantines and removes threats, alerting the team when it detects malicious items. Diaz says that Malwarebytes has reduced the amount of time spent cleaning up malware to almost zero.

“If we need to troubleshoot a system we can do everything remotely now, which is great,” said Diaz. “I can see the IP address, I can see the user, and I can see the actual file where malware is located. It’s very beneficial when it comes to identifying or remediating any stubborn threats.”

Supporting compliance and a great user experience

UC Hastings adheres to the University of California’s Office of the President security standards and is audited annually. With a lean team that manages all IT and security issues at the college, the college relies on powerful solutions to effectively protect its intellectual property, save staff time, and avoid unnecessary disruptions.



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Malwarebytes proactively protects people and businesses against dangerous threats such as malware, ransomware and exploits that escape detection by traditional antivirus solutions. Malwarebytes completely replaces antivirus with artificial intelligence-powered technology that stops cyberattacks before they can compromise home computers and business endpoints. Learn more at www.malwarebytes.com.