Peninsula Grammar draws the line with malware
Malwarebytes stops laptop infections, prevents ransomware, and saves time for IT

Business profile
Peninsula Grammar is the Mornington Peninsula's premier co-educational school, offering almost 1400 Kindergarten to Year 12 students exceptional education and a warm and nurturing school environment. When malware became an obstacle to learning and IT productivity, Peninsula Grammar engaged Malwarebytes to protect its staff, students and parents.

Business challenge
Stop the remediation craziness
Peninsula Grammar has a strong focus on and commitment to supporting students' learning through relevant and innovative use of technology. Years 5 and 6 students use school-owned laptops while students in Years 7 to 12 own their laptops, which they use for coursework. The school is also responsible for staff laptops and desktop systems around campus for more than 200 staff.

When students took their laptops home during the June school holidays, many of them came back with multiple malware infections. As the new term began, the school's firewall blocked malware, preventing students from getting online. Students brought their laptops to the IT team, which spent anywhere from 30 minutes to more than an hour cleaning each one. When a machine was badly infected, the IT team had to re-image it.

“Students were queued up with laptops to be fixed,” said Mr. Graeme Newland, Director of Information Technology at Peninsula Grammar. “We saw at least 20 students in the first week and between 40 and 60 for the month.”

The school had been using a traditional antivirus, but not only did malware evade it, malware disabled it. Once the antivirus was compromised, it no longer received

OVERVIEW

INDUSTRY
Education

BUSINESS CHALLENGE
Stop malware infections to give students more learning time

IT ENVIRONMENT
Windows Defender, firewalls

SOLUTION
Malwarebytes Endpoint Security

RESULTS
Reduced infections by more than 90 percent
Prevented infection from WannaCry ransomware
Reclaimed hours of time for the IT team from cleaning infected machines
Enabled proactive protection for laptops

Peninsula Grammar takes information and communications technology (ICT) security extremely seriously. We rely heavily on ICT, so any issues have a big impact. Malwarebytes goes a long way to helping us proactively protect our school.

Mr. Graeme Newland, Director of Information Technology, Peninsula Grammar
updates so students' laptops were running outdated
virus databases and could no longer access online
content effectively. Hijacked browsers, Potentially
Unwanted Programs (PUPs), and other malware ground
machines to a halt, resulting in classroom downtime
and more IT man-hours spent on remediation.

The solution

Malwarebytes Endpoint Security

“The flood of students coming through the door wasn’t
stemming at all,” said Mr. Newland, “and the traditional
antivirus was no help either. We started looking for a
better solution.”

The team had past experiences with Norton and Trend
Micro solutions, but they came with a high level of
equipment and management overhead. They tried
ESET and then Malwarebytes.

“Previously, we used Malwarebytes only to clean up
infections,” said Mr. James Caudwell, Laptop Technician
at Peninsula Grammar. “We tried the comprehensive,
real-time Malwarebytes Endpoint Security solution, and
the difference between Malwarebytes and the other
solutions was black and white. It was impressively
effective and simple to manage.”

The Peninsula Grammar IT team sat down with their
Malwarebytes representative, who went through best
practices and demonstrated how the multiple layers of
security in Malwarebytes work.

“In one exercise, we turned off one layer of protection
at a time and we were still protected,” said Mr.
Newland. “It was an eye-opening experience to get
insight down to that level.”

Amazing results

The team deployed Malwarebytes using the
Management Console. As soon as it was deployed,
Malwarebytes cleaned thousands of items from
students’ laptops. When the global WannaCry
ransomware attack struck, not a single incident
occurred at the school.

“The results were amazing,” said Mr. Caudwell. “We
were instantly impressed. Malwarebytes reduced
infections by well over 90 percent, which greatly
increased uptime for students. It completely stopped
PUPs from coming in the door.”

Significant time savings

Client devices are scanned regularly, which has
reduced student walk-in traffic to a trickle and is a
huge time-saver for the IT team who now have more
time to spend on high-priority projects. Through the
Management Console, the IT team monitors top threat
levels, risk reports, and trends. When they see student
laptops with consistently high levels of threats, they
can proactively educate them about safer ways to surf
the Internet.

Increased confidence

Australian data privacy regulations demand that
endpoints are secure and protected from data leaks
and hacks. The team takes extraordinary measures
to protect the school and prevent attacks from
succeeding. In addition to complying with regulations,
strong security on endpoints gives staff and students
more confidence that they are protected.

“Peninsula Grammar takes ICT security extremely
seriously,” said Mr. Newland. “Malwarebytes goes a
long way to helping us proactively protect our school.”