

St Catherine's School replaces Sophos with Malwarebytes

Stops ransomware, malware, and system re-imaging

Business profile

St Catherine's School is a leading girls' school in Australia. Located in Toorak, Melbourne, the school provides a nurturing and empowering educational environment for girls in Junior School (primary years) and Senior School through level 12. St Catherine's School also offers an Early Learning Centre educational experience for boys and girls ages three to five. When advanced threats continuously infected staff and student computers, the IT team turned to Malwarebytes.

Business challenge

Seeking a higher grade of protection

St Catherine's School relies on computers to deliver a 21st-century education. With almost 700 endpoints to look after, in addition to ICT infrastructure, the four-person ICT team is kept busy. Junior School students use computers provided by the school. Students entering Years 10, 11, and 12 bring their own devices to school. All together, half of the endpoints are Windows PCs and half are MacOS systems.

Prior to Malwarebytes, St Catherine's School used a Sophos antivirus solution. However, a growing number of cyberattacks were targeting the school. Malspam, malvertising, phishing, ransomware, and multi-stage malware threats often evaded the antivirus solution and infected endpoints. Frequently, staff and students didn't realize that a machine was infected until the malware had compromised system performance. The ICT team had to re-image each infected system, which usually took a full day and valuable ICT staff time away from educational support activities.

OVERVIEW

INDUSTRY

Education

BUSINESS CHALLENGE

Maximize ICT resources by eliminating endpoint infections

IT ENVIRONMENT: SOLUTION

Malwarebytes Endpoint Protection

RESULTS

Blocked ransomware and remediated advanced malware

Saved days of time spent re-imaging systems

Gained efficient visibility into endpoint cyber health from a single console



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JOHN TOULANTAS, ICT MANAGER,
ST CATHERINE'S SCHOOL

“With constrained budgets, focused staff resources, and limited time, I was not pleased that we had to search and pay for yet another product,” said John Toulantas, ICT Manager for St Catherine’s School. “We clearly needed a solution that could detect traditional viruses, advanced malware, and emerging threats while requiring minimal effort from our team.”

The solution

Malwarebytes Endpoint Protection

St Catherine’s School is a “cloud-first” organization and prefers to use hosted solutions to minimize management demands on ICT staff. The school wanted a cloud-based product that delivered effective cybersecurity, was simple to deploy, and operated as a hands-off solution. When Toulantas learned about Malwarebytes Endpoint Protection, he arranged a trial.

“We scanned infected clients using our existing security software and then using Malwarebytes,” said Toulantas. “When we compared the results, there was no question that Malwarebytes was far more effective. Based on the trial results, we replaced Sophos with Malwarebytes Endpoint Protection.”

Malwarebytes also met the team’s requirement for ease of deployment and management. They deployed Malwarebytes themselves with minimal assistance from Malwarebytes support and had all systems covered within one week.

Passing with flying colors

“Malwarebytes detected and remediated far more threats than our previous solution,” said Toulantas. “During deployment, we uncovered and removed thousands of PUPs, PUMs, and malware incidents that had been lurking silently on systems.”

Malwarebytes Multi-Vector Protection uses static and dynamic detection techniques to defend against all types of threats—from traditional viruses to advanced threats. The Linking Engine Remediation capability also removes artifacts that primary malware payloads leave behind, giving the team assurance that endpoints are returned to a truly healthy state. After deployment, Malwarebytes once again proved its mettle by detecting and blocking several ransomware attacks.

Hands-free visibility

Toulantas and his team find the cloud portal easy to use and manage. They now have centralized policy management and consolidated threat visibility across all endpoints—PCs and Mac OS systems—from a single console.

“I especially like the main dashboard,” said Toulantas. “I can see a snapshot of infected endpoints, threat history, and top 10 threats and infections on a single screen. It’s efficient and eliminates the need to search through logs and multiple systems to see what’s going on.”

With Malwarebytes handling endpoint protection for St Catherine’s, the ICT team has eliminated the need to completely re-image systems. Users are blocked from malicious websites that could infect systems. Ransomware is identified and stopped, preventing school assets from being encrypted. If a user accidentally clicks on a malicious URL or attachment, a system can be quickly remediated from the console.

“Our business is education,” said Toulantas. “Malwarebytes frees us from continual ‘firefighting’ to focus on giving our students educational experiences that contribute to successful futures.”



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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.