

Jordan-Elbridge Central School District

Stops Students from Accessing Tunneling Sites with Burstek



JORDAN-ELBRIDGE
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

The District:

Jordan-Elbridge Central School District (JECSD) is located in a rural community between Syracuse and Auburn, New York. The district consists of 3 campuses with over 1,600 students and more than 200 employees; Elbridge Elementary, Ramsdell Elementary and Middle School, and Jordan-Elbridge High School. The community and faculty at JECSD share a common philosophy and commitment for district activities. This enables the school to offer a wide variety of quality learning and growth experiences for students inside and outside the classroom. JECSD's smaller classrooms and school settings also contribute to providing students a better personal educational experience. Another way JECSD strives for excellence is by pursuing cutting edge technology to achieve important goals on behalf of their students, and in community awareness of those goals. Their technology suite is larger and savvier than many would think for a school district of small size in a rural community, and is more advanced than some larger districts as well.



schools and education organizations throughout the world.

Tunnel Web sites are sites specifically designed to help Internet surfers get around filtering tools to access whatever they want on the Web, from MySpace to pornography. Their rapid growth is prolific and they present an especially serious problem for educational organizations because of their popularity among Internet savvy young people, who are constantly motivated by the age-old challenge of "getting around the system".

Of course, not all inappropriate access is intentional, which is why a vital learning tool like the Web can also be a dangerous place for children. In addition to curious minds, a mis-key or mis-click can quickly lead to the wrong places if unfiltered.

With serious concerns for student safety and CIPA compliance issues to consider, Jordan-Elbridge Central School District's Director of Operations, Clark Smith, made finding a more advanced technological solution an urgent priority. His technology team worked 24/7 to identify the tunneling students and find the right solution. JECSD uses ISA Servers, so initial reaction was to contact Microsoft hoping they could use the logs from the firewall to identify the students. Unfortunately, Microsoft's ISA Server's reporting capabilities had significant limitations that were crucial to Jordan-Elbridge.

The Situation:

JECSD's technical team discovered that a large number of students were bypassing the existing Internet filtering solution through proxy and tunneling sites which allowed them to access inappropriate web sites and content, a recent and growing problem plaguing

COMPANY:

Jordan-Elbridge Central School District (JECSD)

LOCATIONS:

Onondaga County, New York

Students & Staff:

1,674 Students and 256 Employees

INDUSTRY: Education, K-12

CHALLENGES:

- Students bypassing previous filter product to access anonymous proxy and tunneling sites
- Unable to report access by users
- Limited budget

BURSTTEK
The World's Choice for Internet Security.

The Challenge:

As a smaller school district, financial constraints are a concern for JECSD when purchasing technology products, such as Internet filtering. So their IT staff works creatively and tirelessly to secure the highest quality resources with minimal budget, and are proud of the results: They now boast a larger and more sophisticated technical suite than most districts their size as well as many larger districts. Still, finding an advanced Internet security solution at minimal cost was going to be a big part of the challenge. Many of the budget solutions filter by IP addresses, and therefore cannot identify actual users and the sites they are going to. Filtering by specific user was a must for Jordan-Elbridge. Another big concern was finding the right fit for their system and environment. Smith's team needed a tool to filter actual users in his environment and within budget, and they needed it fast.

The Solution:

Since ISA Server's cumbersome reporting was not going to work, Microsoft recommended a third-party vendor to report on logs: Burstek. Burstek's reporting tool, bt-LogAnalyzer, is a cost-effective solution that integrates seamlessly with Active Directory and pin-points actual users. The solution was the perfect fit. Burstek representatives helped expedite the order and Smith was able to identify the students who were accessing the anonymous proxy and tunneling sites. The school was able to take disciplinary



“Burstek has enabled us to monitor and protect our users from both accidental and intentional access to tunnel sites.”

action with the students and reinforce the school's Acceptable Use Policy with the entire student body.

Reporting on the problem was only part of the solution however; so JECSD quickly added Burstek's bt-WebFilter to block access to anonymizers and proxy sites, as well as all other inappropriate Web content. Smith says, “Burstek has enabled us to monitor and protect our users from both accidental and intentional access to tunnel sites and anonymous proxies. The software integrates into Active Directory, so we can generate reports on Internet activity by actual user name or group membership, along with other various custom reporting.”

Jordan-Elbridge's administration knows keeping ahead of technology for their students' protection pays off. Because of Burstek's solutions, “Our schools do

not have the problems that other schools and administrations do”, commented Assistant Superintendent, Bill Hamilton. He added. “We can sleep at night and not have to worry about the technology.”

Smith's team also appreciates the above and beyond approach to service Burstek provides. “The support is top-notch. We had to migrate new server hardware and they helped with migration settings and configuration.” Smith said. “We feel Burstek is a company that is committed to service and takes a team approach.”

Burstek is now a vital part of Jordan-Elbridge's cutting edge technology suite, and continues to help protect the most important part of Jordan-Elbridge Central School District; their students.

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The World's Choice for Internet Security.



ABOUT bt-ISUITE:

bt-iSuite is the award winning content filtering and reporting software application from Burstek developed in conjunction with Microsoft Server technology. bt-iSuite includes bt-WebFilter and bt-LogAnalyzer. Designed to integrate seamlessly with MS Active Directory, bt-iSuite delivers cost-effective, serious Internet security.



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