



Less than a week after testing the appliance, the choice was simple: Buy it. IronPort is the best technology I have seen in ten years.



JON WARREN

Manager of Network Operations
Grand Prairie Independent School District



Improved School District Communications and Productivity

SITUATION

Like many educational organizations, the Texas-based Grand Prairie Independent School District (GPISD) continues to face growing demand for improved communications from many directions. Driven by the need to improve education delivery, enable administrative efficiencies, and meet regulatory requirements for security and emergency situations, GPISD has seen its email system emerge as the main mode of communication for administrators, faculty and parents throughout its 32-campus network. However, increasing assaults on the system in recent years by spammers and an alarming stream of viruses threatened this essential means of correspondence, with potentially devastating consequences.

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GRAND PRAIRIE ISD AT A GLANCE

Location: Grand Prairie, Texas
Operation: 32 elementary and secondary school campuses
Students Served: 21,555
Employees: 3,000
Email Volume: 25,000 emails per day
Percentage of Spam: 70%

THE IRONPORT ADVANTAGE

- IronPort Appliance: 2 IronPort C30s
- Performance and scalability
- Ease of management
- Senderbase® technology
- Ability to comply with various policy setups
- 90% reduction in operating costs

“We needed the ability to track what was happening in our email on a day-to-day basis,” said Jon Warren, Manager of Network Operations at GPISD. “That kind of analysis had been the toughest thing to show our management.”

TECHNICAL CHALLENGES

“Our biggest issue was that our SMTP gateways were getting hammered all the time, causing reliability issues for the email system. The native SMTP gateway for our email system was really struggling under this heavy load. Our project objective was to find a solution that could remove spam from our email system and users, integrate spam control function with anti-virus email function, and help us gain some insight into our email traffic,” said Warren.

GPISD tested IronPort and another appliance provided by a prominent vendor in the industry. “We used real emails to run the proof-of-concept and we also asked the opinion of other users. We chose IronPort because we simply didn’t want to have a dedicated staff to maintain the system,” added Jon Warren who did the evaluation, testing, and made recommendations for implementation “we don’t need to maintain the IronPort C30 and it does everything automatically. It is very easy to manage for users.”

THE IRONPORT SOLUTION

Tighter Security and Better Communications for Students, Teachers, and Staff

The IronPort C30™ provides a powerful first line of defense at the network perimeter for the district’s Novell GroupWise™ servers. It eliminates problems posed by spam, viruses, DoS attacks, false positives, misdirected bounces and phishing – while enabling users to scan content for policy enforcement. “Our two major concerns were that the anti-spam technology would be too inaccurate

or invasive, and that we would create a bottleneck in our email system,” Warren said. “We installed the IronPort C30 in evaluation mode and watched it closely for a couple of days. The results were remarkable. We did not have any complaints about spam false positives, and the IronPort product immediately improved the performance of our entire email system.”

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MANAGER OF NETWORK OPERATIONS
GPISD

Significant Cost Savings

Initial concerns over return on investment were quickly eliminated as district management gained a deep appreciation for the IronPort C30’s value. “Less than a week after putting the appliance in place, the choice was simple: Buy it,” Warren said. “At first, people don’t always understand how technology like this can improve an organization’s overall operations. The IronPort C30’s benefits were clear to everyone: the end users, the network operations staff, and the school district administration.”

Improved Productivity

The district wanted enhanced tracking capabilities that would provide immediate insights into the amount and composition of email traffic routed through its system. The IronPort C30 provided the district with comprehensive and real-time visibility into its email traffic, giving administrators complete control over all incoming and outgoing messages.



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ABOUT IRONPORT SYSTEMS

IronPort Systems is the leading email security products provider for organizations ranging from small businesses to the Global 2000. The company has developed a family of email security appliances, the IronPort C-Series™, that offer breakthrough performance, multi-layer protection, and best-of-breed options. IronPort is driving new standards and providing innovative products for those faced with the monumental task of managing, protecting, and growing mission-critical email systems. For more information on IronPort products and services, visit: www.ironport.com