

EDTECH™ FOCUS ON K-12

Brought to you by:



CASE STUDIES

TACTICAL ADVICE

RESOURCES Copy Room with Managed Print Services

Classroom Management can save money and boost productivity. ...more

White Paper Optimize Definitions of Cloud Computing

CDWG sorts out the cloud for IT managers looking to make the move. ...more

Product Review: Snagit Helps Users Get the Picture

Networking capture utility provides several new features and enhancements over previous versions. ...more

Mobile Questions Every District Should Ask Its Cloud Vendor

Hardware & Software Avoid Law & Stiffler to chance when moving IT operations to the cloud. Be thorough and ask questions. ...more

Management

Efficient IT Support Optimization



Subscribe





SIGN UP FOR

EdTECH

E-NEWSLETTERS

Follow EdTech

RSS Feed

Connect With CDW

LinkedIn YouTube Spiceworks

Like 5k

ADVERTISEMENT



[Home](#) » [Security](#)

[< previous](#)

[next >](#)



Case Studies //

Schools Travel Different Roads to Cloud Security

School districts view the public cloud as a long-term destination.

Karen D. Schwartz

posted March 15, 2012 | Appears in the Focus on Cloud Computing issue of the *EdTech Magazine* e-newsletter.

Like

Share

Spice



Show and Tell



Features schools in: California | Texas

Related Articles

Serving Up Anytime, Anywhere Apps Over a Private Cloud

Review: Symantec Endpoint Protection.cloud

Network Security Strategies for Schools of All Sizes

Review: Fortinet FortiGate-300C

Product Review: Trend Micro Worry-Free Business Security Services

ADVERTISEMENT

For Wright Elementary School District, a three-school K-8 district in Santa Rosa, Calif., security in the cloud is just as important as it is for larger school districts. Wright Elementary made its first foray into the public cloud about two years ago, using it for e-mail and calendars via Google.

Christopher Moghtaderi, district technology coordinator, says to ease security concerns, the IT department deployed *Panda Security's Cloud Office Protection* to secure the district's 160 PCs and notebooks, along with the Google calendar app and Gmail they use daily. The Panda cloud application offers antimalware protection, a personal firewall and remote management capabilities.

"We have a set of notebooks that our staff can take offsite, and we noticed that they weren't getting security updates. When they were returned to campus, there were viruses and other problems," Moghtaderi says. "We wanted something that could manage all of those systems remotely while dealing with our cloud applications."

Moghtaderi also likes that he can manage all 160 systems from one location instead of having to travel to the three district schools.

"If there is a specific problem, I can start a remote session and troubleshoot if the software can't resolve the issue," he says. "And I know that the security is always up to date."

That peace of mind gives Moghtaderi the confidence to explore the school district's next step into cloud computing: online grading software. "We're just in the beginning stages, but I'm going to focus on password security with cloud-based apps like that," he says.

For any organization with software, infrastructure or platforms in the cloud, it's critical to identify threats and vulnerabilities in real time so they can be acted on and resolved quickly, says Renell Dixon, a managing director at PricewaterhouseCoopers, a global consultancy firm.

"When you're talking about the cloud, the window of opportunity between the time a threat is located and the time you are fully protected is very small," she says. "It's important to put something in place that manages that process in real time by continuously monitoring and fixing problems as they occur."

Something Different

Noe Arzate, director of technology at Mount Pleasant Independent School District in Mount Pleasant, Texas, takes a different approach to cloud security. His first cloud project started about two years ago, when the district implemented a private cloud powered by *Stoneware's* webNetwork. WebNetwork lets organizations create and manage their own private cloud, in which users can access applications and services from anywhere. The system allows teachers at Mount Pleasant ISD to access courses and class rosters, assign projects and communicate with students via a browser on any smartphone, tablet, PC or notebook. Students also can access the system.

33%

The percentage of IT security executives polled who think cloud infrastructure environments are as secure as on-premises data centers

SOURCE: Ponemon Institute, October 2011

From the beginning, Arzate hasn't been too concerned about security because the cloud is private. However, he does use *Trend Micro Deep Security* to monitor activity on the district's servers as well as its externally facing cloud resources.

Eventually, Arzate expects that the district will move to some public-cloud applications, and when that occurs, he says the district will increase its use of cloud-based security tools.

"We're considering replacing our current collaboration system with *Microsoft Office 365*, which is cloud-based,"

he says. “That means we’ll be using the public cloud, but we’ll be ready for it.”

Cloud Security: Help Is on the Way

Security is the biggest reason organizations hold back from moving to public-cloud services. In response, several of the most prominent security manufacturers have released products to ease these concerns.

One category is cloud-based e-mail security. Products such as *Symantec.cloud* and Panda Cloud Email Protection offer virus and spam protection, along with content and image control. Symantec also offers a product that delivers instant messaging protection in the cloud.

Cloud-based security for the web is another major category, with offerings that include *Trend Micro’s SecureCloud*, *McAfee Cloud Security*, *Panda Cloud Office Protection* and *M86 Secure Web Service Hybrid*. These services block malware and spyware and offer policy control and user authentication.

Providers also offer cloud-based security services that deliver continuous-monitoring trend analysis.

“It’s about identifying threats and vulnerabilities and acting on them quickly to prevent problems people are concerned about, like identity theft, denial of service and data loss,” explains Renell Dixon of PricewaterhouseCoopers.

About the Author

Karen D. Schwartz

Karen D. Schwartz is a freelance technology writer based in the Washington, D.C., area.

Like


Add New Comment

Login



Showing 0 comments

Sort by newest first ▾

[Subscribe by email](#)  [RSS](#)

Trackback URL

Classroom

5 Ways to Integrate Interactive Whiteboards into Classroom Lessons

Want your students to experience the magic of learning? Then take advantage of virtual...

One-to-One or BYOD? Districts Explain Thinking Behind Student Computing Initiatives

“Bring your own device” programs have transformed the way schools are delivering...

...more

Infrastructure Optimization

White Paper Offers Clear Definitions of Cloud Computing

CDW•G sorts out the cloud for IT managers looking to make the move.

13 Questions Every District Should Ask Its Cloud Vendor

Avoid leaving things to chance when moving IT operations to the cloud. Be thorough and...

...more

Security

5 Signs Your Network Needs an Overhaul

Cash-strapped districts tend to make the best of the networks they have for as long as...

Danger Defanged: Content Filtering Makes the Web Safe for Students

Two new Barracuda Networks content filtering solutions show promise.

...more

Storage

5 Signs Your Network Needs an Overhaul

Cash-strapped districts tend to make the best of the networks they have for as long as...

VoIP Done Right

A California school system reflects on the products and processes behind its...

...more

Networking

How to Start a BYOD Program

Building a "bring your own device" program isn't as daunting as it may seem.

5 Signs Your Network Needs an Overhaul

Cash-strapped districts tend to make the best of the networks they have for as long as...

...more

Mobile

Is BYOD the New One-to-One?

The "bring your own device" movement is altering the personal-computing landscape in...

Can Your IT Team Handle the Demands of One-to-One and BYOD?

Whether it's one-to-one or "bring your own device," school IT departments must rise to...

...more

Classroom

Infrastructure Optimization

Security

Storage

Networking

Mobile

Hardware & Software

Management

Copyright © 2012 CDW LLC | 230 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Vernon Hills, IL 60061