Honeylight Consulting and Fortinet:

The team you need to secure your students and staff

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The Education sector has a duty of care that they need to provide to their students, while also protecting the institute network from the threats and risks of BYOD devices that have no or limited endpoint security. Schools across Australia are standardising on Fortinet's Security Fabric because it offers cost-effective and robust network security.

Backed by the team at Honeylight Consulting, Fortinet's Security Fabric reduces risk, ensures unimpeded network access and sets the stage for future growth.

Robust operations

Fortinet FortiGate firewalls featuring Secure SD-WAN (software-defined wide area networks) provide robust and streamlined operations, especially when it comes to load balancing. A case in point is Mount Lilydale Mercy College. Their previous firewall didn't load balance very well and, as a result, they needed additional internet connections. FortiGate's SD-WAN capabilities handled the extra workload with ease.

> ***"Our Fortinet infrastructure has 'just worked' from day one," says Edgardo Ty, IT Manager at Melbourne's Mount Lilydale Mercy College. "Indeed, I don't think we could have maintained our network access during the Covid-19 disruption as well as we did if we hadn't upgraded to Fortinet last year. And the network is stable. When we update our policies on the fly, we are confident that the network won't drop connections or disrupt operations."***

Removing bottlenecks

Fortinet firewalls help balance loads, improve network speeds and enable students and staff to take advantage of the benefits of technology, including BYOD. Hampton Park Secondary College wanted a firewall that would provide enhanced security without causing network degradation.

> ***"We needed better security for our BYOD initiative as well as faster throughput," says George Mattar, IT Manager at Hampton Park Secondary College in Melbourne. "Our legacy firewall was a bottleneck and we were unable to manage the load without slowdowns or even crashing on occasion. But now, after installing the Fortinet stack, our internet is fast, reliable and doesn't glitch like it used to. And our security is tighter than ever thanks in part to SSL Certifications for web browsing from BYOD devices."***

Expert implementation

To help install and support Fortinet's security solutions, schools are calling on Honeylight Consulting to get the job done right.

"Honeylight Consulting had the experience, expertise and patience to architect a Security Fabric that fit our complex topology," says Geoffrey Alagoda, ICT Director at Perth's Christ Church Grammar School. "They called upon an impressive knowledge base to set up our network to deliver safe and secure access to students and staff across multiple virtual domains, regardless of traffic loads."

Flexibility, scalability and visibility

With Fortinet's FortiGate Next Generation Firewalls as your foundation, your school can protect your network regardless of your topology – in-house, cloud-based or in a third-party datacentre. FortiGate firewalls can scale up to enterprise level yet, with FortiClient, protect mobile devices and laptops as staff and students log-in, all with a standardised security policy. FortiAuthenticator brings Multi-Factor-Authentication to applications and resources. SAML based FSSO can be setup so that staff and users are not having to remember multiple passwords, instead all supported resources (onsite and cloud) can be accessed via one single sign on mechanism, ensuring that only the right person at the right time can access your sensitive networks and data. Combined with FortiAnalyzer, you'll have unprecedented visibility into network operations and a vast range of reporting options.

Ideally suited for education

Fortinet's Security Fabric is ideally suited for the education sector. "Fortinet's wide range of security solutions, multiple deployment options and standardised policies give us the flexibility and scalability we need to install the Fortinet Security Fabric in schools regardless of their size, topologies or requirements," says David Vo, Service Delivery Manager at Honeylight Consulting.

"FortiGate firewalls incorporate Secure SD-WAN (software-defined wide area networking) to help protect multiple network edges whilst reducing costs and automating network management overheads. This approach is proving popular with schools and has facilitated expanding the reach of the network to remote users."

Load balancing with SD-WAN

Both Mount Lilydale and Hampton Park had experienced unstable internet links combined with poor load balancing. "We were confident that FortiGate's SD-WAN capabilities would resolve these issues," continues Mr Vo. "Using Fortinet's algorithms for load balancing the schools can now prioritise sessions and volumes and even weight links for spill over. These tools give them the flexibility to use SD-WAN intelligence or choose their own path for a specific occasion.

"With Fortinet we can be assured that their solutions are robust today and will continue to be so into the future. The global network of FortiGuard Labs provide us with the very latest in threat intelligence and Fortinet's R&D teams are constantly developing new solutions to secure and protect clients in the fast-moving world of ICT."

Honeylight Consulting and Fortinet: Maximum impact

Honeylight Consulting's team of skilled system engineers and hands-on business development managers ensure that you'll get the service you need before, during and after you install Fortinet's Security Fabric. "What impressed us the most," says Mr Ty at Mount Lilydale, "is that Honeylight presented us with a range of options, explained the benefits of each and then guided us to make the best decision based on our needs. In fact, I am so pleased with the results that I have had no hesitation at all recommending Fortinet and Honeylight to my colleagues at Victoria ICT Administrators Network Group meetings."

CASE STUDIES

Mount Lilydale Mercy College

Mount Lilydale Mercy College is a Roman Catholic co-educational secondary school located in the Melbourne suburb of Lilydale, Victoria. Founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1896, the College serves the needs of over 1,500 students and 200 plus staff.

Fortinet solutions:

- FortiGate 600E Next Generation Firewall (incorporating SD-WAN)
- FortiGate 300E Next Generation Firewall (incorporating SD-WAN)
- FortiAnalyzer
- FortiToken Mobile

"Our Fortinet solution helps us provide a 'duty of care' to our students and staff at an acceptable level. During the Covid 19 disruptions of 2020 our network hasn't faltered at all. I don't think we could have managed this as well as we have without the upgrade. Our Fortinet Security Fabric has 'just worked' from day one."
Edgardo Ty, IT Manager, Mount Lilydale Mercy College

Hampton Park Secondary College

Hampton Park Secondary College is a multicultural secondary college in Melbourne, Victoria. Established in 1986, Hampton Park has an enrolment of more than 1,135 students with a teaching and support staff of 130.

Fortinet solutions:

- FortiGate 500E Next Generation Firewall (incorporating SD-WAN)
- FortiAnalyzer
- FortiCache

"We have been able to rely on Fortinet and their Security Fabric…it works as advertised. The solution has saved our network, from a security perspective, on multiple occasions. The team from Honeylight takes care of any issues in a professional and acceptable manner and they always stick to budget. I have recommended Fortinet to schools over the years and many have migrated to the Security Fabric as a result of our experience."
George Mattar, IT Manager, Hampton Park Secondary College

Christ Church Grammar School

Christ Church Grammar School is a multi-campus independent Anglican single-sex early learning, primary and secondary day and boarding school located in Perth, Western Australia. The school has a roll of more than 1,650 boys and employs 304 academic and support staff.

Fortinet solutions:

- 2x FortiGate 500E Next Generation Firewalls (incorporating SD-WAN)
- 2x FortiGate VM02V Next Generation Firewall Virtual Appliances
- FortiGate 61E Next Generation Firewall
- FortiAnalyzer VM for VMware

"We selected Honeylight Consulting to implement Fortinet's Security Fabric because they understood our requirements. They showed the patience we needed to get the job done right on our own timeline. As a result, we now have a resilient and robust network that has slotted in smoothly with our somewhat complex mix of datacentre and in-house based topology. Plus their 'single-pane-of glass' management gives us the visibility we need to protect students and staff."
Geoffrey Alagoda, ICT Director, Christ Church Grammar School

Honeylight Consulting have been helping the education sector with their IT strategy, deployments and management since 2010. Our highly skilled engineering team are ex-IT managers (mostly from schools) so we really understand your environment and the challenges you face.

Contact us today for real advice in helping secure your network, provide limitless learning and maintain the wellbeing of your students.

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