

Organization

Symbiosis Institute
of Management Studies

Industry

Education



“Cyberoam is a perfect solution for educational institutions to manage their IT resources. It is a one stop Internet security solution that we have always been looking for.”

Girish Phutane

System Administrator

Symbiosis Institute of Management Studies

Cyberoam Replaces Proxy Server to Reduce Risks Associated with Internet Use

Background

Symbiosis Institute of Management Studies (SIMS) has come to be synonymous with academic excellence in the field of Management. The institute offers a unique platform to the students, encouraging conceptual understanding and providing the right focus based on the industry needs and trends.

Challenge

SIMS has a Wi-Fi network giving the students anytime, anywhere connectivity. However, problems arose, like non-academic surfing by students related to gaming, shopping, instant messaging and sending mails. Also, the use of virus affected laptops led to a high rate of network broadcasting, choking bandwidth heavily. Due to the enormous strain on the bandwidth the Internet availability to critical users was severely affected.

Identifying the cause of choking was a tough task for the network administrators of SIMS. “We needed a system that could monitor the incoming and outgoing traffic as well as control the web access of users,” says Girish Phutane, the Systems Administrator of SIMS.

SIMS tried ISA Server 2000 before deploying Cyberoam. However ISA Server could not manage network traffic and could block only the ports assigned by the SIMS network administrators. As a proxy server it was totally incapable of handling new age threats like virus, spam, intrusions, indiscriminate surfing and bandwidth abuse.

Cyberoam Solution

After Cyberoam was installed SIMS was able to identify that the presence of virus within the network was leading to loss of bandwidth. SIMS could now identify the virus infected machines. Post removal of these machines from the network, the bandwidth got free of flooding and users could see the change in the quality of bandwidth instantly.

By defining bandwidth policies for students, staff, and Wi-Fi users, SIMS could allocate dedicated bandwidth with Cyberoam. SIMS created a committed bandwidth policy with guaranteed total bandwidth of 8 KB and burstable bandwidth as 16 KB, assuring bandwidth availability to critical users even during peak hours.

“Deployment of Cyberoam reduced the strain on the network bandwidth. We could curb heavy downloads like audio-video, streaming media, games, graphic files, online radio, ticker ads, P2P traffic and more,” says Phutane. This ensured better connectivity to the Internet for a greater mass of users.

“Cyberoam has helped us in many ways like managing bandwidth at user level, blocking unwanted sites, chatting, games and many more.”

Girish Phutane

To further complement the bandwidth optimization within their network, SIMS also purchased the cache module of Cyberoam. So repeat requests which formed a great part of downloads in the institution were served from Cyberoam's cache within the network itself thereby reducing Internet traffic and bandwidth needs.

Content filtering through Cyberoam's WebCAT Engine enabled SIMS to block unwanted sites in addition to potentially embarrassing surfing of sites falling under adult content.

Cyberoam also enabled SIMS to keep track of the queries being used on search engines like Google on a per user basis. Reporting at this micro level enabled the authorities to keep a check on the surfing pattern of each individual. “Cyberoam helped us manage real Internet time. We have complete control on the Internet usage and can limit or block its use to specified sites enabling us to reduce the legal liability of the institute,” says Phutane.

Detailed analysis in the form of reports like web surfing trends, user wise data transfer and blocked categories by number of attempts, facilitated the management in decision making and implementation of network policies which augmented productivity in the institution.

In Phutane's words, “Cyberoam is a perfect solution for educational institutions to manage their IT resources. It has helped us in many ways like managing bandwidth at user level, blocking unwanted sites, chatting, games and many more. It is a one stop Internet security solution that we have always been looking for.”

By utilizing Cyberoam, educators and students across SIMS can surf the net safe from inappropriate content while enjoying increased bandwidth and an optimized network performance. Currently Cyberoam assists SIMS in managing unlimited users in their Wi-Fi network.