

iboss protects Roedean School with Optimal Security, Performance and Flexibility

Overview

Roedean School is a prestigious independent school for girls aged 11-18, located on an impressive 118 acre cliff-top overlooking Brighton Marina.

The school was founded in the Kemp Town district of Brighton in 1885 by three entrepreneurial sisters – known locally as “the Firm.” Its purpose was the academic advancement of girls by preparing them for entrance to the newly opened Girton and Newnham Colleges at Cambridge.

By 1898, the school had outgrown its premises and moved to the present site at Roedean. Enrollment has increased steadily to its current 450 students, yet the school has managed to retain its family atmosphere.

Today the school attracts students from both the UK and international communities, with the majority boarding in Roedean’s impressive 400 bedroom facility that has recently seen a £9m renovation investment. Known for progressive teaching and high achievement, many of Roedean’s students go on to study at Oxford or Cambridge Universities.

The Challenge

Roedean was in need of a Web security solution that could handle their growing Internet requirements. Aidan Bowen of iboss Premier Partner, Solutions Inc. states, “Like all modern schools Roedean relies increasingly on the internet and online learning resources to support the curriculum. After hours, the internet becomes a critical resource for homework, entertainment and communication back home”. Bowen also pointed out that the school has recently increased its Internet capacity, moving toward a 1 GB pipeline in order to ensure that there is plenty of bandwidth to support staff and student requirements. He explained, “In addition to desktop machines in the computer labs, most students carry at least two wireless connected devices, such as a laptop or tablet and phone.”

Roedean Network Manager, Shayne Parker explained that they had been using Smoothwall to handle their Web filtering, but found it was increasingly becoming a bottleneck on the network. They also found that despite the promise of dynamic content categorisation, the Smoothwall solution resulted in far too many false positives, which meant that the ICT team spent a lot of time managing custom blocklists.

Another challenge for the school was that in addition to student-owned devices, Roedean has an estate of iPads issued to students, which needed to be locked down and managed, particularly while off the local network. Roedean had been using an MDM solution from Lightspeed to provide mobile management, but felt it lacked the flexible integration and comprehensive reporting they required.



Company:
Roedean School

Industry:
Education

Location:
Brighton, UK

Size:
450 Students

Solutions:

- iboss Secure Web Gateway
- MobileEther™ Integrated Cloud Web Security and MDM
- FireSphere™ Advanced APT Defence



The Solution

Roedean chose iboss Cybersecurity solutions to handle their security needs, because iboss offers the comprehensive features, streamlined integration and flexibility they require, with the scalability to ensure optimal network performance. The school is now using iboss Secure Web Gateway, MobileEther™ MDM and FireSphere™ APT Defence to provide security across all users whether on or off the network.

iboss Secure Web Gateway:

With its rich feature set, flexible inline deployment and boundless scalability, iboss has really helped Roedean to make the most of their high speed connectivity. The school was also pleased with iboss intelligent bandwidth management which allows them to provide availability to all users, while ensuring that critical tasks such as online examinations are never jeopardized. With a mixture of work stations, school-owned mobile devices and BYOD, Roedean was glad to have the iboss capacity to easily extend security across all users, while ensuring accurate policy enforcement and single-pane-of-glass reporting.

MobileEther™ Cloud Web Security and MDM:

Roedean likes that MobileEther™ easily secures all of their mobile devices, whether on or off-network, with convenient single sign-on authentication and integrated reporting. They also appreciate the fact that MobileEther™ allows them to have granular control over applications so that students are accessing the learning tools they need and not unwanted apps.

FireSphere™ Advanced APT Defence:

As with all modern schools, Roedean increasingly houses more private student information on their network and are aware that schools can be a target for data theft. They chose FireSphere™ to help them better secure their student and staff information against sophisticated malware and data theft attempts.

The Results

Roedean is very pleased with their iboss deployment and how easily iboss solutions integrate to deliver Web, data and mobile security across all the users on their network. Shayne Parker said "Previously, there were many complaints about poor performance or lag on the internet, particularly during our peak usage periods in the evening. Since installing iboss, these complaints have fallen silent, and it has also reduced our management overhead." Network administrator Max Carpenter added "iboss allowed us to do away with cumbersome, proxy-based filtering and has been a godsend; iboss has simply been easier to implement and manage."

With a significant number of international students, the school has found iboss' ability to monitor and track international traffic useful. It has allowed them to distinguish between potential data protection act breaches and simple student communications back home. According to Shayne Parker, "The ability to report on and monitor suspicious activity across all TCP and UDP ports was phenomenal. We are a big BYOD site, so malware introduced from student-owned devices has been a challenging issue. The FireSphere™ Advanced APT Defence solution has given us the confidence that such issues will be quickly identified, and problem machines contained without threat to other student devices."

Roedean was also pleased that iboss MobileEther™ easily integrated with the Meru wireless network designed by Apple Premiere Reseller, Solutions Inc, who also supplied Roedean's mobile devices and desktop machines. iboss was able to provide convenient and seamless single sign-on access, that created a good end-user experience as well as conserving IT resources. In particular, the school has found that the customized app store that iboss provides is much more flexible than the Lightspeed MDM they were using, explaining that application categories can be properly controlled rather than broadly categorized by age ranges.

About iboss Cybersecurity

iboss Cybersecurity defends today's large, distributed organizations against targeted cyber threats which lead to data loss, with the iboss next-gen Secure Web Gateway Platform, leveraging innovative cloud architecture and patented advanced threat defense technologies. iboss advanced solutions deliver unparalleled visibility across all inbound/outbound data channels, and include security weapons that reveal blind spots, detect breaches and minimize the consequences of data exfiltration. With leading threat protection and unsurpassed usability, iboss is trusted by thousands of organizations and millions of users. Visit www.iboss.com.