



Garland ISD Works Smarter with Kaspersky Lab

Customer Profile

Garland ISD consists of two pre-kindergarten schools, 45 elementary schools, 13 middle schools, seven high schools, four alternative educational centers and seven administrative/ support facilities with more than 18 thousand endpoints.

Industry

Education

Challenges

- To detect the latest versions of malware, spyware, and viruses.
- To protect heterogeneous distributed network.
- To ensure security protection from the endpoint to the cloud

Kaspersky Lab Solution

Kaspersky® Anti-Virus 6.0

Results

- Improved efficiency and productivity
- Decreased support requirements
- Greater security protection

With an enrolment of over 57 thousand students, the Garland ISD is the second largest school district in Dallas County and one of the largest districts in the State of Texas. The community maintains a "small town" feeling, but its teachers have access to a multitude of additional resources that the larger districts offer.

Security Challenge

Garland ISD has earned a reputation for its commitment to technology. Approximately 18 thousand PCs, 350 network servers, 100 Microsoft servers, 25 Linux servers, and 35 Macs serve the instructional and administrative needs of 71 campuses, each with its own website and multiple computer labs. There's a computer in every classroom with high-speed Internet access and district-wide connectivity to facilitate teaching, record-keeping, and home/school communication. In this environment, security protection from the endpoint to the cloud is no trivial matter.

In the Spring of 2008, the school district began to reevaluate their malware protection. The antivirus software they had been using for four years was not successfully detecting the newest viruses, malware, and spyware. Failure to detect security issues upfront had resulted in reduced productivity and workplace efficiency. IT staff had to invest significant time installing software fixes and reimaging computer systems because new security-related problems were cropping up almost daily.

Network Engineer Rusty Truelock explains, "We were looking for something that would give us more extensive control." Requirements called for a security product that could extensively support the school district's heterogeneous technology infrastructure environment, which includes Novell® NetWare®, Microsoft® Windows®, Linux, and Mac hardware and software. With huge data clusters at the high schools and most other campus locations, support for data clustering was critical.

“For school districts, it's about manageability. Most school districts don't have huge amounts of manpower and for Kaspersky Lab's solution to be managed as efficiently as it is, is a huge boon.”

Rusty Truelock
Network Engineer, Garland ISD

Solution

Kaspersky Anti-Virus 6.0 most closely matched the Request for Proposal requirement specifications. A key differentiator was its comprehensive support for the Garland ISD's technical environment. The IT staff were also impressed by the product's high ranking on numerous websites. By far the biggest selling point was that Kaspersky Lab was beta testing a Macintosh client. This is a valuable asset because high school and middle school students use Macs for video editing, imaging and graphics, plus, some teachers and administrators prefer Macs and future plans call for installing Macs at mobile campus labs.

Garland ISD purchased Kaspersky® Anti-Virus 6.0 software licenses from The Harding Group, an information technology consulting firm and Kaspersky Lab software reseller in Arlington, Texas. The Harding Group also developed a program to remove the previous software package so the Kaspersky Lab components could be easily installed.

The Garland ISD IT staff found Kaspersky Lab's solution easy to deploy in a multi-phased rollout. Kaspersky® Anti-Virus 6.0 was first installed and tested on the two primary and secondary servers in the district's technology centers. The software was then installed at campus locations, beginning with the technology centers. To date, Kaspersky Lab software has been installed in all the computer labs at each campus. Rollout to the entire staff, teachers and administrators is expected to be complete by December 2008.

Rusty Truelock credits the Kaspersky Lab systems engineering team for helping the Garland ISD network group streamline a quick deployment. "I have been impressed with Kaspersky Lab's sense of responsibility in terms of stepping up to help us implement, knowing that it is a huge implementation. They exceeded our expectations," he says.

Kaspersky Lab also provided three days of on-site training, which was customized to the Garland ISD environment and staff requirements. "The training was fabulous...and we learned a lot," says Truelock.

Results

Kaspersky Lab has far exceeded Garland ISD's expectations for upfront virus detection, antivirus protection, innovative features, intuitive use, and minimal support requirements. Importantly, Kaspersky® Anti-Virus 6.0 does what it should, is hands-off and does not require extra work.

For Rusty Truelock and his colleagues, Kaspersky® Anti-Virus 6.0 is a dream come true. "I have dealt with multiple antivirus packages. This is definitely a step above the rest. I am also impressed with the product direction and that Kaspersky Lab is not losing focus on antivirus protection," he says. "Everyone loves it. To say that one guy was dancing for joy would be an understatement."