



Company Leeds City College
Industry Education
Country / Region UK
Website www.leedscitycollege.ac.uk/

Company Profile

Leeds City College is the UK's third largest further education establishment, with 40,000 students, and over 1,500 staff.

Business Situation

The College was formed by the merger of several colleges. The expanding College needed a high-performance, multifunction firewalling solution to securely connect multiple sites and provide remote access for students and staff.

Solution

WatchGuard XTM 1520s for Unified Threat Management

Benefits

- Better performance and control than prior solution
- Secure, remote access for students and staff across multiple platforms
- Easy-to-deploy and easy-to-manage solution
- Helps stay on top of compliance with real-time monitoring and reporting

Leeds City College Graduates to WatchGuard Firewalls



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- Dave Newsham, ITSS Service Delivery Manager,
Leeds City College

Background

Leeds City College, the UK's third largest further educational establishment, with 40,000 students and more than 1,500 staff, is deploying WatchGuard XTM firewall appliances across its large, multi-site network that connects three large campuses with fibre circuits and microwave point-to-point links.

The College was formed in 2009, following the merger of Leeds College of Technology, Leeds Thomas Danby, and Park Lane College Leeds & Keighley, with further mergers with Joseph Priestley College and Leeds College of Music in 2011.

Challenge & Solution

While this major expansion presents exciting new opportunities for students, the integration posed considerable challenges for the College ITSS Department. Not least of these was securing the three major ingress/egress points of connection to JANET, the UK's research and education network.

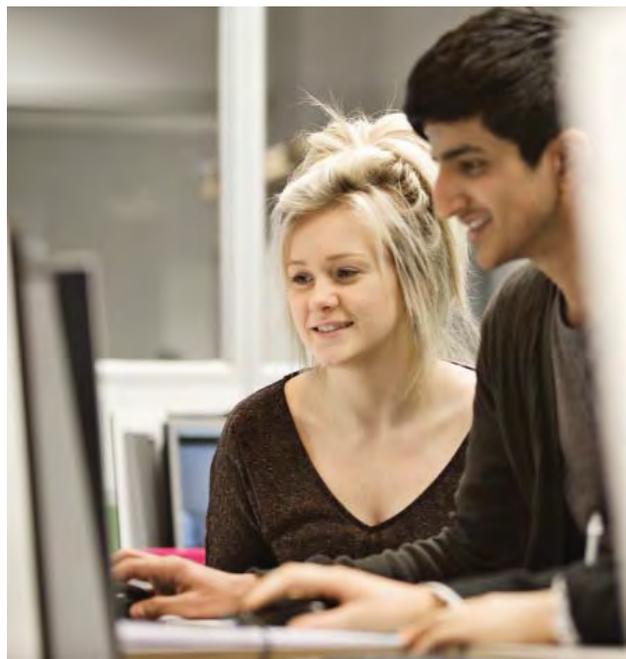
To tackle these challenges, the Leeds City College IT team decided to standardise on the WatchGuard Unified Threat Management (UTM) platform with the help of its IT partner, Epic Net. The first WatchGuard XTM 1520 replaced a Cisco firewall at the Technology Campus to deliver greater performance and control; while a second appliance has been installed at the brand new Printworks Campus, opened for the first wave of students this September. The third WatchGuard XTM 1520 will be installed in the Park Lane Campus this October to complete the secure multi-site network.

The WatchGuard UTM firewalls provide safe IPSEC or SSL VPN authorised remote access to the College network and resources for all staff and students from multiple Apple, Windows, or Android platforms. As well as support for the full Microsoft Office suite of applications, every student has an Office 365 email account and associated online collaborative workspace.

In addition to providing full Layer 7 firewall protection and intrusion prevention, Leeds City College now has a central point of management, with the ability for policies to be easily deployed across the network, along with simplified administration and centralised logging and reporting. With up to 14Gbyte throughput, the WatchGuard XTM firewall appliances will be able to handle anticipated bandwidth growth over the next five years as well as the addition of increasingly complex rule sets, without loss of performance; while the clustered hardware configuration provides 100% resilience.

"The expansion of the College posed significant security challenges, but the WatchGuard solution has allowed us to efficiently and comprehensively implement network security for staff and students wherever they are on the network," says Dave Newsham, ITSS Service Delivery Manager at Leeds City College. "The WatchGuard XTM firewalls are both affordable and uncomplicated to deploy and maintain, helping us ensure we meet compliance standards, and can easily scale to accommodate future growth."

"Support from both WatchGuard and its partner, Epic Net, has been exceptional," continues Newsham. "Deployment was pain-free, and we now have a more centrally managed, secure, and easy to administer multi-site solution and we are able to track, monitor, and review real-time access and reporting."



About WatchGuard

Since 1996, WatchGuard Technologies has provided reliable, easy-to-manage security appliances to hundreds of thousands of businesses worldwide. WatchGuard's award-winning extensible threat management (XTM) network security solutions combine firewall, VPN, and a suite of security services to boost protection in critical attack areas. The extensible content security (XCS) line of products offers content security across email and web, as well as data loss prevention. Both product lines help you meet regulatory compliance requirements including PCI DSS, HIPAA, SOX and GLBA. Represented by more than 15,000 partners in 120 countries, WatchGuard is headquartered in Seattle, Washington, with offices in North America, Latin America, Europe, and Asia Pacific. For more information, visit www.watchguard.com.

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