

### The Organization

Goucher College  
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### The Challenge

Protect Goucher College's most important electronic asset from spam, viruses and phishing attacks.

### The SonicWALL Solution

Goucher College deployed a SonicWALL Email Security 6000 appliance to protect its 7,500 e-mail users. The appliance replaced a software solution that could not keep pace with the mounting spam and the potential threats embedded in inbound e-mail messages.

### The Results

- Goucher now has a much more reliable e-mail security solution that delivers much higher spam catch rates.
- Students and faculty can now manage their own spam setting, removing a major drain on Goucher's IT staff time and resources.
- Dedicate e-mail security appliance blocks e-mail at the network perimeter and eliminates drain on Exchange server.

For Goucher College, an independent, co-educational institution, the world is its campus. The Baltimore, MD. liberal arts school encourages its students to complement their rigorous classroom education with real-world experiences through internships and study abroad opportunities. The college's marketing tagline is "Education without Boundaries", and with students studying and working around the world, the college relies heavily on e-mail communications, or what Reid Guanti, director of computing services for Goucher, refers to as "the school's most important electronic asset."

For Guanti, managing 7,500 faculty, staff and student e-mail accounts has become much easier since the college implemented a SonicWALL® Email Security 6000 appliance. With more than 92 percent of all messages hitting the college's Exchange Server considered spam, Goucher requires a solution that can keep up with the pace of today's burgeoning junk mail problem.

"Prior to implementing the SonicWALL solution, we were using an e-mail security software that was quickly outpaced by mounting e-mail offenders," said Guanti. "The previous solution ran on a Microsoft® Windows server rather than a dedicated appliance, was unstable, and simply could not keep up with the growing amount of spam we were receiving every day."

Guanti added that the software solution consumed a significant amount of the CPU resources, required regular reboots and didn't catch an acceptable amount of spam. "There was also no direct user interaction; false positives needed to be retrieved by an administrator; and unfortunately, junk mail was stored on the Exchange server in a 'spam' mailbox," he said.

The college needed a more reliable e-mail security solution that could deliver much higher spam catch rates and reduce the burden on IT by allowing users to manage their own junk mail settings. After evaluating a Barracuda Email Firewall 600 and a SonicWALL Email Security 6000 appliance, Guanti determined that SonicWALL was the right solution for Goucher College.

"We chose the SonicWall Email Security 6000 over the Barracuda 600 for a number of reasons; the most significant factor being junk e-mail storage," added Guanti. "With SonicWALL, junk mail was stored on the appliance, while Barracuda appeared to require an active Exchange email account to catch all junk mail. Secondly, SonicWALL's user interface was much more intuitive, and out of the box, the device was much easier to set up. In fact, we were up and running within an hour. Finally, we were much more confident in configuring SonicWALL to meet our needs, whereas we felt we were often guessing at some of Barracuda's options."

The SonicWALL Email Security 6000 provides the college with the combination of anti-spam, anti-virus and anti-phishing software and end-user access and spam management on a device with dedicated spam storage on the box. The appliance also reduces the load on the Exchange server by eliminating any spam e-mail storage requirements.

*"We have seen a definite increase in the amount of spam that has been captured at the gateway since we installed the SonicWALL appliance. By blocking mail at the perimeter, including communications to non-existent users, our Exchange server has more available resources for legitimate e-mail processing."*

*—Reid Guanti  
Director of Computing Services  
Goucher College.*

As they are training around the world in various internships and through study-abroad opportunities, Goucher students rely heavily upon their Goucher.edu e-mail accounts to stay in touch with their fellow classmates and to collaborate and exchange assignments with their professors. SonicWALL's Email Security appliances provide Goucher with powerful inbound e-mail threat management, which stops viruses, spam and phishing attacks at the SMTP gateway. Students and faculty can confidently use their e-mail knowing that their computers and data are protected.

SonicWALL also provides students and teachers with access to a Web-based junk box, which allows them to search, sort and review their junk e-mail from wherever they may be working or studying. In order to reduce the load on the server's CPU, user junk boxes are stored on the network perimeter and not on the e-mail server.

In addition to the junk boxes, SonicWALL Email Security allows students and faculty to control how aggressively they want their e-mail filtered, and to build their own allowed and blocked lists. Given the breadth of academic and research topics studied at Goucher and shared among faculty and students, there are certain terms and subjects that would be blocked by traditional e-mail solutions that are permitted based on SonicWALL's user-defined filters and controls. As a result, the SonicWALL Email Security 6000 provides Goucher College with an effective solution that dramatically reduces spam and relieves the load on network resources and the IT staff by allowing end-user spam management.

"We have seen a definite increase in the amount of spam that has been captured at the gateway since we installed the SonicWALL appliance," added Guanti. "The device has helped to reduce calls to the help desk related to mail retrieval and how to deal with spam, and has also reduced the load on our Exchange server. By blocking mail at the perimeter, including communications to non-existent users, our Exchange server has more available resources for legitimate e-mail processing."

Instead of requiring manual updates, the appliance's self-running, self-updating system can be set to download new releases, signatures and rules at any time and frequency. SonicWALL's dashboards and reporting capabilities also provide IT administrators with the information to determine policy efficiency and system performance. As a result of SonicWALL's spam management, hands-off maintenance, and overall performance, Guanti and his staff can focus on more pressing IT challenges, while Goucher's students and faculty can securely and effectively access and exchange e-mail on campus or from around the world.

### SonicWALL Benefits

#### ■ Award-winning anti-spam.

SonicWALL Email Security 6000 appliance ensures the most effective and current protection against spam for students and faculty.

#### ■ End-user spam management.

SonicWALL Email Security allows Goucher students and faculty to control how aggressively they want their e-mail filtered, and to build their own allowed and blocked lists.

#### ■ Inbound e-mail threat management.

Dedicate appliance blocks e-mail threats such as spam, viruses and phishing attacks before they invade the network. SonicWALL's **Time Zero Virus Technology** protects customers from the time a virus outbreak occurs until a signature update is available.

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