

The Organization

Southwestern Law School
3050 Wilshire Boulevard,
Los Angeles, CA 90010
<http://www.swlaw.com>

The Challenge

Protect students and teachers from mounting spam e-mail while simplifying e-mail security management for small IT staff.

The SonicWALL Solution

Southwestern installed a SonicWALL Email Security 6000 appliance to protect more than 1,300 users across campus.

The Results

- Provides accurate spam filter that has eliminated an average of 20,000 junk mail messages per day, and has saved school about 100 MB in bandwidth.
- Users can control their own junk box settings, helping to eliminate major IT burden.
- Quick installation and simplified management reduced the burden of maintaining an internal e-mail security solution.

Located in the heart of the mid-Wilshire district of Los Angeles, Southwestern Law School is a non-profit, free-standing private law school offering four Juris Doctorate programs and two masters of law programs. The law school is famous for its graduates, which include more than 10,000 around the world, as well as its campus, which includes an Art Deco landmark, the 1929 Bullocks Wilshire building. A recent \$29 million renovation of the building emphasized the growing importance of technology as the university installed the most advanced solutions for teaching and research while maintaining the integrity and culture for which the building has become famous.

Southwestern boasts state of the art facilities and technology-enhanced classrooms. Among the technology that has become critical for faculty and students is e-mail. Each Southwestern student is assigned a swlaw.edu e-mail address at orientation. Just how important e-mail to the school is made clear on the school's Web site; "Students should get into the habit of checking Southwestern e-mail regularly, as this is the primary means of disseminating important information to students." Students can access their e-mail accounts through a program such as Outlook or through the school's Outlook Web Access. With the increasing focus on electronic communications, the school, its students and faculty also quickly became targets of an increasing volume of junk e-mail, which was having a direct impact on employee productivity, as well as the company's IT network resources.

"E-mail is very important to our university, and our system and faculty were being overwhelmed with spam, which wasted time and drained network bandwidth," said Bo Suzow, director, Management Information Systems for Southwestern Law School. "Much of what we offer our students is supported by electronic resources, from legal research to periodicals to government documents. Being able to access these resources, as well as e-mail, is a critical part of our students learning experience at Southwestern Law School. With an average employee spending one second per junk message, we estimated that 5.5 hours a day were being wasted by employees. We cannot allow e-mail threats and spam's drain on bandwidth to burden our faculty or students."

The school attributed the increase in spam and bandwidth problems to the poor performance of its filtering software, which was an add-on to an antiquated e-mail system and only stopped about 30 percent of the spam that reached the school's network. The system's poor performance drove the school's IT staff to look for a new solution. Suzow outlined four key requirements for a new e-mail security solution:

- Accurate spam filter
- User junk control
- Simple maintenance and low in-house demand on system administration
- Turn-key solution

Southwestern Law School

"SonicWALL now protects roughly 1,300 people, filters an average of 20,000 junk mail messages per day, and has saved us about 100 MB in bandwidth. The ability for our employees and students to control their own junk mail boxes has removed a great burden from our IT staff."

*-Bo Suzow
Director, MIS
Southwestern Law School*

Under the direction of a trusted SonicWALL channel partner, Southwestern selected a SonicWALL® Email Security 6000 appliance.

"We evaluated SonicWALL products in the past, and we felt comfortable with implementing the Email Security 6000 knowing SonicWALL's security appliance reliability," added Suzow. "Internet search results show SonicWALL as an ideal solution for higher education. The many positive comments regarding low post-installation and maintenance issues were also helpful in making the final decision to go with SonicWALL."

The SonicWALL Email Security 6000 appliance features an award-winning anti-spam engine that provides end-to-end attack monitoring, which ensures the most effective and up-to-date protection from spam, virus and phishing attacks. The solution's end-user spam management allows faculty and students to personalize e-mail filtering to meet their needs without burdening IT, yet enabling IT to maintain complete control. Users can set up their own allowed and blocked e-mail lists, can establish how aggressively to filter inbound e-mail and can control junk box settings.

In addition to end-user spam management, the Email Security 6000 is a turn-key solution that features quick installation and simplified management, which reduces the burden of maintaining an internal e-mail security solution. The school's IT staff can also now produce customizable system-wide and granular reports to help them better understand the types of attacks hitting their network and the effectiveness and overall performance of system settings. The SonicWALL appliance also features automatic signature updates that won't interrupt the performance of the school's e-mail system.

"During the weekday about 80 percent of our e-mail is spam, while 95 percent of e-mail on the weekends is spam," commented Suzow. "SonicWALL now protects roughly 1,300 people, filters an average of 20,000 junk mail messages per day, and has saved us about 100 MB in bandwidth. The ability for our employees and students to control their own junk mail boxes has removed a great burden from our IT staff, while the system's integration with our Exchange server and the dramatic reduction in help desk calls and system administration has allowed us to focus on and accomplish a variety of other IT projects."

SonicWALL Benefits

- **Award-winning anti-spam.**
SonicWALL Email Security 6000 features an award-winning anti-spam engine that provides end-to-end attack monitoring, ensuring the most effective and up-to-date protection from spam attacks.
- **End-user spam management.**
End-users have control over white and black lists, which greatly reduces false positives and lessens the load on IT. Allows school to more easily manage the diverse needs of teachers and students.
- **Rapid installation and ease-of-management.**
SonicWALL Email Security 6000 takes under an hour to install and reduces the burden of spam management and e-mail security.

SonicWALL, Inc.

1143 Borregas Avenue
Sunnyvale CA 94089-1306

T +1 408.745.9600
F +1 408.745.9300

www.sonicwall.com

