



Cape Cod Regional Technical High School

Strapped for bandwidth and burdened with policing network use, Cape Cod Regional Technical High School implemented the CopySense® Network Appliance to automatically control P2P file sharing.

“The CopySense Appliance provides insurance against the problems caused by P2P downloaders and keeps me from playing cop on fair use compliance. The self-contained appliance solution is definitely the way to go.”

– Jonathan Roberts, Technology Coordinator

Overview

Industry

- Education / Vocational High School

Challenges

- Students violating written policies against P2P use
- Students downloading copyrighted music and accessing pornography
- P2P activity slowing down the network
- No budget to step up to higher speed Internet access

Solution

- Block all P2P use with the CopySense® Network Appliance

Benefits

- Blocks copyrighted content and pornography where a web filter fails
- Relieves IT administrator from policing network use
- Reduces unwanted network traffic, staying manageable within current access speeds
- Provides insurance against future violations
- Simplicity of solution eliminates extra work

Audible Magic Corporation
 985 University Ave., Suite 35
 Los Gatos, CA 95032 USA
 telephone: 408.399.6405
 fax: 408.399.6406
 www.audiblemagic.com

Cape Cod Regional Technical High School, or Cape Tech, as it's locally known, is a vocational high school located in Harwich, Massachusetts. In addition to a general education curriculum, Cape Tech offers vocational concentrations ranging from horticulture to information technology. With 250 computers on its network, increasing student use of P2P file sharing was slowing Internet performance and putting the school at risk for liabilities associated with copyright infringement and student access to pornography.

Cape Tech found that its firewall and web filter weren't solving the problem. The latest P2P applications have incorporated methods of searching out and exploiting open ports in the firewall. The web filter only blocked web sites and had no effect on P2P applications. Adding network bandwidth would require a large increase in monthly Internet access charges, but more importantly, administration was increasingly concerned about illegal downloads of copyrighted material and pornography available on P2P networks.

Technology coordinator Jonathan Roberts began looking for an alternative to manually policing network use and having to confront violators. According to Jonathan, "I found another vendor's software product that blocks P2P transactions, but it required setting up a gateway server on Windows 2000. In addition to the software expense, I'd have to purchase the Windows machine, and then I'd have to maintain Windows on an on-going basis. Fortunately I found the Audible Magic solution. It's in a self-contained box that doesn't require any software installation or maintenance. It just plugs into the network. That's definitely the way to go."

Jonathan installed the CopySense Appliance and first spent a few weeks monitoring P2P use. The CopySense Appliance can monitor network traffic and provide reports on how much bandwidth is being consumed by P2P applications. Verifying that P2P files were being traded that violated school policies, Jonathan then set the CopySense Appliance to block P2P transactions.

As an alternative to blocking all P2P transactions, the CopySense Appliance can also filter P2P traffic, blocking specific content such as copyrighted songs or pornography but allowing legitimate P2P transactions to go through. "That's a nice feature which we might utilize in the future," said Jonathan, "I can also see how a university might want to use that. At the secondary level, we haven't seen much need for P2P that isn't recreational, but that could change. For now we block it all, and the appliance is 100% effective against every P2P application we tested."

Shortly after the CopySense Appliance began blocking P2P transactions, a faculty member approached Jonathan. Some media class students thought P2P would be a good source of music downloads for their video projects. "It gave us the opportunity to have an intellectual property discussion in class," Jonathan reports. "The students took on a new perspective about music downloads when another student talked about how his web-posted graphic designs had been used by another web site without his permission."

Cape Tech's network traffic is now more manageable within the constraints of its current access speed. Jonathan estimates he regained up to 20% of his network bandwidth, and he's pleased that he has a solution automatically enforcing network policy compliance without requiring police work.