



## Coppin State University

Coppin State University noticed that even after upgrading from T1 to T3 Internet access, campus bandwidth consumption continued to grow disproportionately due to P2P use. There was also a growing concern about complying with copyright laws and avoiding “take-down” notices from the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA). The CopySense® Network Appliance now spares Coppin State from the burdens of illegal trading.

“The CopySense Appliance acts in a surgical manner, taking copyright infringement out of the picture and doing it without interfering with privacy or academic freedom.”

—Mitch PreVatte, Director of Network Services

### Overview

#### Industry

- Education / State University

#### Challenges

- P2P use was impacting campus network bandwidth
- State University system was concerned about copyright infringement
- Cost management was critical to serving a financially-challenged community
- Administration wanted to preserve privacy rights and academic freedom

#### Solution

- Block illegal P2P content with the CopySense® Network Appliance

#### Benefits

- Blocks illegal file trading while allowing legitimate P2P use
- Regains lost bandwidth
- Easy to use and easy to manage
- Automatic operation relieves monitoring individual users

Coppin State University is part of the University System of Maryland and is best known for undergraduate and graduate programs in the arts, sciences, teacher education and nursing. Located in the heart of Baltimore, Coppin serves an inter-city population as well as students from around the world. Student enrollment is about 4000. As an HBCU (Historically Black Colleges and Universities), Coppin is proud of its culturally rich history, educational programs and community outreach services.

Director of Network Services Mitch PreVatte reported that at times, P2P file trading was consuming a large percentage of Coppin's network bandwidth. According to PreVatte, “This was causing quite a headache for faculty using the network in the classroom.” Additionally, several University of Maryland schools had begun receiving RIAA notices, and the issue was showing up as a topic in the press. “It was time to be proactive,” said PreVatte.

Because Coppin serves a large community of financially challenged students, there were also concerns about network bandwidth costs. PreVatte said, “We have a responsibility to keep student fees low. The cost of illegal file trading is not a burden we want to place on our students or the state.”

PreVatte's team chose the CopySense Network Appliance because of its ease of use, the ease of managing an appliance and because it's the only product that can specifically block illegal file trades while permitting legitimate P2P traffic. They selected a CopySense model that fits a 1U rack space, and because it's a self-contained appliance, there is no general-purpose operating environment or antivirus solution to continually maintain.

Said PreVatte, “We wanted to be careful about impinging on academic freedom. While the bulk of P2P traffic is illegal trading, there is still some P2P traffic that is legitimate.” The CopySense Appliance offers an operating mode where illegal P2P file trades are blocked, but all other trades are ignored. In this mode, files are blocked based on a database of digital signatures from copyrighted materials.

PreVatte continued, “We also like the fact that the CopySense Appliance allows us to be as unobtrusive as possible.” With the CopySense Appliance, Coppin is relieved from monitoring the content of individual user transactions. Illegal trades are blocked automatically.

Coppin administration and faculty have responded favorably to the addition of the CopySense Appliance. PreVatte reports, “Our CIO and Vice President had looked unfavorably at publicity from illegal trading. Now we stay in good graces with the RIAA, and we further protect the delivery of services to students.”

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