



South Texas College

South Texas College is one of the fastest growing community colleges in the nation. Founded in 1993 to serve the needs of its local community, the college now boasts an enrollment of more than 25,000 college and professional students and an additional 8,000 dual-curriculum high school students. The college operates on five campuses, three in McAllen, and one each in Weslaco and Rio Grande City, Texas. Students can follow more than 100 degree and certificate program options in 40 different subject areas – including two bachelor’s degrees in applied technology.

Nationally recognized for its premier educational opportunities, South Texas College is also one of the almost 1700 community colleges nationwide affected by the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) passed by Congress in August 2008.

As the chief information security officer responsible for the networks on all five campuses, Steve Bourdon recognized that unauthorized P2P activity occurred with some frequency, despite the fact that the college had not yet received any DMCA notices.

“While we were fortunate to have escaped notices,” said Bourdon, “we were eager to implement technology that would keep us notice-free while protecting the rights of our students to legally access P2P applications. And with the passage of the HEOA, deterrence became a priority.”

“The CopySense appliance addresses our need to comply with the HEOA by offering a technical solution that can effectively detect and respond to illegal downloads on our network.”

-Steve Bourdon, Chief Information Security Officer

Yet, with open-access computer labs and no dorms, South Texas College is reflective of other community colleges in that IP or MAC addresses are not static. Access to the college’s network is available to students and visiting community members using many different computers throughout the day. Bourdon was concerned that finding the right compliance solution would not be easy. Then, based on a recommendation by the Texas Department of Information Resources, he evaluated Audible Magic’s CopySense appliance.

Bourdon and his team seriously looked at other products prior to implementing the CopySense appliance but found them to offer limited functionality and to require extensive configuration to meet their needs. “The CopySense appliance was easy to deploy and easy to manage. And because it supports Microsoft’s Active Directory, we can track network usage by username.”

Audible Magic helps South Texas College comply with the HEOA, while supporting the institution’s ability to help build better digital citizens.

“We also really like the CopySense appliance’s Graduated Response system, which enables us to redirect our students at the time of an infraction,” said Bourdon. “We can take advantage of the ‘teachable moment’ to provide information to our students on copyrights and intellectual property rights – we much prefer educating our students rather than punishing them! With the CopySense appliance, we are able to apply a consistent set of rules to everyone.

“Not only does the product meet our needs, we find working with the support team at Audible Magic to be another big plus! They are simply outstanding!”

Overview

Industry

- Education / Community College

Challenges

- Large, non-resident student body with dynamic IP addresses
- Open-access computer labs available for community use
- Need to fully comply with 2008 HEOA regulations

Solution

- Detect and respond to P2P content with the CopySense® appliance that supports Active Directory

Benefits

- Provides full HEOA compliance
- Manages unauthorized file transfers while allowing legitimate P2P use
- Tracks usage by usernames
- Easy to configure, easy to use
- Generates comprehensive usage reports

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