



Unified Security Platform Transforms K-12 District's Cyber Defenses



INDUSTRY

Education

HEADQUARTERS

Charleston, South Carolina

COMPANY SIZE

approximately 50,000 students in 88 schools

OVERVIEW

The Charleston County School District (CCSD) is a nationally accredited school district dedicated to providing equitable and high-quality educational opportunities for all its students. CCSD is the second-largest school system in South Carolina, representing a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural schools that span 1,300 square miles along the coast. CCSD serves approximately 50,000 students in 88 schools and specialized programs. CCSD offers a diverse and expanding portfolio of options and specialized programs, delivered through neighborhood, magnet, IB (International Baccalaureate), Montessori, and charter schools.

OUR SOLUTION



Infinity
Portal



Infinity
MDR/MPR



Quantum
Security Gateway



Harmony
Workspace Security



CloudGuard
Network Security

Options include programs in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), music and other creative and performing arts, career and technical preparation programs, and military.



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Tom Nawrocki, executive director of network, operations, and cyber security at CCSD



CHALLENGE

The Charleston County School District (CCSD), like many K-12 institutions, faces an increasingly complex cyber security threat landscape. Primarily concerned with maintaining system uptime for teachers and students; while also ensuring business continuity, the district's operations team also recognized the need to elevate the maturity level of their cyber security program. CCSD serves approximately 50,000 students in 88 schools and specialized programs, offering a diverse and expanding portfolio of options and specialized programs delivered through neighborhood, magnet, IB (International Baccalaureate), Montessori, and charter schools.

Tom Nawrocki, executive director of network, operations, and cyber security, cited several significant challenges that needed to be solved before the team could succeed at maturing their program. Like most organizations today, CCSD found its existing cyber security staff stretched, with reliance on only a handful of experts for specific systems, which threatened operational resilience. The county budget's forecast for cybersecurity proved unpredictable due to multiple funding sources and unforeseen security demands.

The technology team also experienced limited visibility into network activity, particularly during overnight hours. This raised concerns about undetected security incidents. "Visibility was my main concern," Nawrocki said. "We were always worried to come in at 6 am and find out what happened overnight," he said.

Finally, the combination of fragmented security tools from multiple vendors, incident response challenges, and staff training proved overly complex to manage. "We needed immediate detection and response capabilities. And we needed to have a firm incident response plan, but that's a challenge when you have diverse cyber security systems doing the monitoring," he said.

With those challenges in mind, Nawrocki and the team set out to find a cyber security services provider that could be an expert extension of their internal team, increase visibility into network events, and rationalize their fragmented security tool sets.

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Tom Nawrocki, executive director of network, operations, and cyber security at CCSD

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SOLUTION

After their evaluation of available options on the market, the district chose to implement the Check Point Infinity ELA cyber security platform. The Check Point Infinity Enterprise License Agreement (ELA) is a comprehensive cybersecurity architecture designed to deliver all-inclusive threat prevention and security management across an organization's entire IT infrastructure. It represents a fundamental shift from managing multiple disparate security toolsets to a unified, enterprise-wide security platform that simplifies deployment, reduces costs, and improves threat prevention effectiveness.

The Infinity platform operates on four integrated pillars that collectively protect all organizational assets and networks: Quantum Security Gateways form the network security foundation, protecting enterprise networks, data centers, and IoT networks against fifth-generation cyber-attacks. CloudGuard provides unified, cloud-native security across multi-cloud environments, enabling automated security posture management for cloud assets and workloads.

Harmony delivers comprehensive workspace security, protecting remote users and their access to applications and data across all attack vectors. This includes endpoint protection, mobile security, email security, and SaaS application protection. And, finally, Infinity Portal serves as the unified management console that brings centralized visibility, policy management, and threat correlation across all network environments and security solutions. The portal's security operations center enables deep attack intelligence and visibility into the organization's overall threat posture.

Nawrocki explains that while other vendors also offered all-inclusive options, he gravitated toward Check Point because they listened closely to CCSD's specific challenges, particularly in terms of funding, staffing, and the team's ability to support the security suite. "I had such a high comfort level knowing we had the support that we needed, the training that we needed, and that support was just a phone call away," he said.

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OUTCOME

CCSD's cyber security efforts have delivered tangible improvements in both security and peace of mind. Through the implementation of Infinity MDR/MPR (Managed Detection and Response/Managed Prevention and Response), district leaders now report they can "literally go to bed and not worry about cyber security," Nawrocki said. They're now confident in their ability to remediate threats automatically and deliver timely notifications. This real-time visibility and proactive threat management have proven to be "a game changer," giving the district a level of assurance that was previously out of reach.

Nawrocki noted that the Enterprise License Agreement (ELA) also provided financial peace of mind. "The ELA gave us several years of knowing exactly what we were going to spend," he said. This flexible, all-in-one agreement structure also enabled CCSD to invest in cross training its staff. And team members described the training as some of the best they'd received. Most importantly, these investments translated into measurable improvements in staff morale and operational effectiveness.

This includes dramatically improved visibility and control over the security environment, enhanced incident response and operational efficiency, better budget management, increased staff confidence and morale, fostered by improved training and support, and consolidation through the unification of endpoint, network, cloud, and email security into a single comprehensive platform.

About Check Point Software Technologies Ltd.

Check Point Software Technologies Ltd. (www.checkpoint.com) is a leading protector of digital trust, utilizing AI-powered cyber security solutions to safeguard over 100,000 organizations globally. Through its Infinity Platform and an open garden ecosystem, Check Point's prevention-first approach delivers industry-leading security efficacy while reducing risk. Employing a hybrid mesh network architecture with SASE at its core, the Infinity Platform unifies the management of on-premises, cloud, and workspace environments to offer flexibility, simplicity and scale for enterprises and service providers.

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