

Campbell Union School District

An Infrastructure for the Education Revolution

“BEST OF ALL, THE MIRAPPOINT SYSTEM HAS NEVER HICCUPPED OR HAD A PROBLEM. THAT’S THE WAY WE LIKE OUR TECHNOLOGY TO RUN.”

Jerry Davis, Director of Technology, Campbell Union School District

CASE STUDY | EDUCATION



BUSINESS NEED

Dependable, low-maintenance, fully featured email server to support communications among staff and between parents, students, and teachers at 12 schools throughout the District

SOLUTION

Mirapoint Message Server

BOTTOM LINE

Mirapoint offers a reliable, effective solution for communication throughout the school District

Background

Located just to the west of San Jose in California's Silicon Valley, the Campbell Union School District has embraced technology as a partner in educating its students and in the day-to-day business operations. With more than 20 servers district-wide running a variety of operating systems ranging from Microsoft and Apple to Linux, the District has leveraged technology to maximize the quality of education and minimize costs to work within increasingly tight budgetary constraints.

Campbell relies on email technology to enable effective communication among its 500 teachers and 400 other employees distributed across 14 sites. Email also plays an important role in communication between parents & students and teachers.

The Business Need

Campbell was an early adopter of email, purchasing a Netscape Suitespot system in 1994. But by 1998, the system was showing its age and lacked all but the most basic functionality. Reliability and maintenance issues were becoming a problem. “It didn't have any of the features we really needed, like group lists and anti-virus, and the company was no longer supporting it. We had to do something,” says Jerry Davis, Director of Technology for the Campbell Union School District. Clearly, the District had outgrown the old system and needed to look for a replacement.

Campbell Union School District

The Mirapoint Solution

The District formed a committee to research alternatives. Three suppliers were evaluated including a newer version of the legacy Netscape system they had, and Mirapoint. "Not only did the Mirapoint solution have group lists, but it came with virus protection. We really liked that," says Davis. Based on ease of management, low maintenance, and low cost, the District selected a Mirapoint Message Server M200. The flexible solution enabled the District to support the majority of its staff who used Netscape Mail, as well as a small group of staff, including the Superintendent, who used Microsoft Outlook and a Microsoft Exchange server. All email was routed through the M200 to provide virus scanning. The District also deployed Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP) to enhance the user experience.

In 2002, Campbell Union School District upgraded its M200 to a Mirapoint Message Server M400. This enabled the District to add Webmail Direct. This allows mobile teachers and administrators to get their email from any Internet-connected PC. It also provides instant response and forwarding features that users throughout the District find very useful. "Our teachers, administrators, everybody uses the Webmail feature, and it's wonderful," says Davis.

Campbell has additionally leveraged the Mirapoint solution to reduce paper load. Notes and agendas from faculty meetings, daily and weekly bulletins, even the school newspaper, are emailed now. "The savings have got to be tremendous," says Davis.

Davis has been especially pleased with the virus protection, which uses Sophos technology. "The Mirapoint system is catching all of the viruses. When you read about new viruses in the paper, the protection is already in our system. None have gotten through since we installed the first Mirapoint in 1998."

The Bottom Line

The Mirapoint solution has allowed Campbell Union School District to focus on its main task, education, not managing and maintaining an email system. "It's almost freed the technician's time to manage, and it operates as smoothly and seamlessly as can be for equipment," says Davis. That reliability, and the effectiveness of its antivirus capability, has enabled it to become the primary means of communication between teachers, administrators, students, and their parents. This, in turn, has led to savings through reduced paper load. "Our email is such a central part of our communications, and it's never failed us. We are extremely pleased with Mirapoint," says Davis.

About Mirapoint

Mirapoint® is the market leader in appliance-based solutions for secure message networks in enterprise, service provider, and education organizations, with more than 100 million mailboxes served and secured worldwide. Customers use Mirapoint appliances including the Message Server mail appliance and RazorGate mail security appliance to build the messaging infrastructure that intelligently serves, secures and manages email. Mirapoint is headquartered in Sunnyvale, California, with offices throughout North America, Europe and Asia. For more information on Mirapoint, visit its Website at www.mirapoint.com.

Configuration

- One Mirapoint Message Server M400 with Webmail & virus scanning