

PacketFence

Testimonial

About Seigneurie-des-Mille-Îles school board / With more than 8,500 employees, 40,000 students and 70 schools, the Seigneurie-des-Mille-Îles school board (CSSMI) is one of the largest school boards in Québec, Canada. / For more information, visit the official website of the Seigneurie-des-Mille-Îles school board at www.cssmi.qc.ca/ /

Network Access Control (NAC) at CSSMI / Over the past few years, the CSSMI's network has been powered by enterprise-class switches and routers from Cisco Systems inc. / In 2006, the CSSMI started to look at securing its network by limiting its access to registered devices. The CSSMI also required to identify malicious activities on the network and react based on internal policies. The chosen NAC solution would also need to secure wired and wireless network access by offering the same level of security and depth of functionality. / The solution would also need to respond to the following requirements : a captive portal to guide users in the registration process or for getting out of isolation; dynamic VLAN assignment based on the location of the registered device; limited network access (Internet only) for visitors. / The network is composed of over 220 switches, 50 wireless access points and handles many thousand devices. The directory services used for authentication purposes is Novell eDirectory. /

Why PacketFence Was Chosen / Considered as the leading Free and Open Source NAC solution, PacketFence was chosen by the CSSMI due to its richness in functionality, its ability of being gradually deployed in an heterogeneous network and its excellent development and support momentum. / Moreover, the ability of PacketFence to detect "peer to peer (P2P)" activities and react based on them allowed the CSSMI to improve the performance of its network. /

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- > On the managed equipment, PacketFence allowed us to eliminate all costly P2P activities on our network. It also helped us identify and block network gaming activities. Those improvements greatly reduce our overall Internet bandwidth usage and significantly improve our level of security. — Denis Gallant, associate IT director, CSSMI
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The Benefits of Using PacketFence / By using PacketFence, the CSSMI was able to address its main network security concerns and could effectively modernize its network while reducing costs. / As a result, the CSSMI was able to : replace some of its aging and costly Cisco hardware with cheaper modern switches while maintaining the same level of security; improve network speed by decreasing P2P and gaming activities on the network; provide a unified solution for the wired and wireless networks; reduce overall cost, and; improve the productivity of network engineers. /

- > The wide variety of supported network switches by PacketFence allowed us to gradually and transparently deploy the solution at the CSSMI in an uniform way. — Jean-François Laporte, network engineer, CSSMI



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For more information, visit
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