

# U.S. College Protects Campus Network from Malware by Utilizing Enterprise Threat Protector



## The Situation

This college, located in the Southwest of the United States, provides Internet access for a few thousand students and staff across their three campus locations. They offer day, evening, and online classes for the student population. The college experience is elevated by multiple student services including open computer labs, online tutoring programs, technology-equipped classrooms, and personal attention from faculty and staff. Other non-academic opportunities are provided through student groups and activities, cultural events, athletic tournaments, panels, and volunteer programs.

## The Challenge

The college's CIO noticed an uptick in malware on the network. At that point, the college did not have a system in place to protect their DNS infrastructure, which exposed them to multiple threats. Recognizing the vulnerability, the CIO decided to explore his options while keeping several considerations in mind. As a year-round higher-education provider, the college is unable to shut their system down for extended maintenance or updates. Furthermore, the volume of students, faculty, staff, and guest users accessing the campus Internet (both wired and Wi-Fi) precluded them from using pricey and complex physical connections or other non-cloud-based solutions.

## The Goals

During the solution exploration period, the CIO had several requirements to support the college's technology needs and objectives.

The solution needed to:

- Reduce instances of malware and ransomware from reaching the college's network, and significantly improve the security posture
- Keep solution management time to a minimum
- Add protection to the full user population without complexity or hardware

## Why Enterprise Threat Protector

After finding Enterprise Threat Protector (ETP), the CIO scheduled a call with Akamai to review the college's malware issue. Akamai immediately enrolled the college in a trial, and the CIO was able to turn on the service same-day. Around two weeks into the trial, Akamai delivered a network health report to the college that confirmed instances of PandaBot malware and Locky ransomware. In addition, the Enterprise Threat Protector solution had identified and blocked multiple Command and Control (CnC) and phishing attempts. The CIO appreciated the visibility into the traffic on the network and decided at that point to add Enterprise Threat Protector to the college's security stack.

The college is now able to block phishing attempts, malware, and ransomware that originate in emails, are embedded on web pages, or are spread through compromised domains and devices. They have also prevented CnC connections from requesting further instructions, downloading updates, and transmitting intel out of the network. Additionally, they have an easy-to-use dashboard that allows them to constantly monitor their network health.

### COMPANY

College in the Southwest U.S.

### INDUSTRY

Education

### SOLUTIONS

Enterprise Threat Protector

### KEY IMPACTS

- Defended university-wide network from an active malware issue
- Minimized disruptions to network
- Blocked phishing attempts and command and control (CnC) callouts



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