



CHRIST gains bespoke security solution with Sophos.

CHRIST, a “Deemed to be University,” ranks among the top private universities in India. It was founded as an autonomous university in 1969 and was declared a Deemed to be University in 2008. Today, CHRIST has five campuses, with three in Bangalore as well as additional campuses in Lavasa and Ghaziabad.

Being a multi-disciplinary university, CHRIST offers graduate, post-graduate, and doctoral programs in humanities, social sciences, engineering, management and law to more than 18,000 students located across the five campuses. The large number of users and the distributed network require a next-generation firewall that provides comprehensive protection and high connectivity.

CUSTOMER-AT-A-GLANCE



CHRIST University

Industry
Education

Website
www.christuniversity.in

Number of Users
30,000

Sophos Solutions
Sophos XG650 xHA
Sophos XG 550
Sophos XG 430
Sophos CR750iNG-XP x2

Challenges

- Lack of a centralized system to manage more than 60 servers across five locations
- Difficulty in creating concurrent unique user identities
- Difficulty in applying standard security protocol due to BYOD policy
- Website filtering and establishing customized usage patterns
- Inability to control bandwidth and usage for different levels of users

How do you know it's time to say goodbye to your legacy system?

An important security requirement of the university was a secure firewall, which could also act as a control center for all of its 60 servers across its campuses in Bangalore, Lavasa, and Ghaziabad. Additionally, the university wanted to create more than 30,000 user identities, Media Access Control list user rules, and an additional authentication device, which were not possible with the previous legacy product.

The university further required a robust system that could handle student and staff devices as part of its bring-your-own-device (BYOD) policy. This need required unmatched network security that could also seamlessly integrate with the 60 servers dispersed across different locations.

Manoj T. Thomas, manager, operations, IT services, at CHRIST says, "Before Sophos came into the picture, our previous IT vendor was unable to create user databases for our 30,000-plus students and staff. We further required absolute control over the VLAN during exams, and it was difficult to bring in a differentiated services code point server for a short period of time."

What tipped the balance in Sophos' favor?

In 2014, the university initiated a proof of concept, after which the Sophos solution was selected for its ability to cater to the university's requirements. The institution was extremely satisfied with the initial firewall and happily upgraded to the advanced Sophos XG series.

"When the university was looking for a cybersecurity partner, we evaluated a few firewall service providers. Our requirement was simple. We wanted a next-generation, flexible firewall protection system for easy troubleshooting that could be controlled from a single control center. Only Sophos could provide this. The solution also fit within our budget and, hence, we chose Sophos," explains Thomas.

The Sophos Firewall Manager provides powerful centralized management for all Sophos firewalls across multiple locations from a single screen. This makes management of firewall policies and configuration possible from a single console. It also provides the ability for insightful monitoring with a single glance as well as the possibility for extensive administrative controls, such as role-based administration, change control, and logging.

'In comparison, the Sophos firewall made it easy and granted full control within seconds!'

Manoj T. Thomas
Manager Operations - IT Services
CHRIST



How does the Sophos solution impact the quality of education?

Sophos offers comprehensive next-generation firewall protection that can be programmed to create many databases, block any unknown threats, automatically respond to incidents, and expose hidden risks on the network with ease.

"With the Synchronized Security platform, Sophos XG series firewall delivers advanced protection against new-age threats such as ransomware, cryptomining, bots, worms, and hacks. It imparts great visibility into the network, users, and applications directly from the control center. From exposing hidden risks and stopping unknown threats to isolating infected systems, Sophos firewall supports a powerful unified security model, which allows us to establish and manage security from a central location," adds Thomas.

Since implementing Sophos firewall solutions, the institution can create Media Access Control user-based rules and security, efficiently resolve log viewer issues, and seamlessly integrate all the servers. The advanced Sophos XG series firewall provides superior visibility into risks and threats, and the firewall's control center provides in-depth clarity into the network, users, and applications. The XG 550 and 650 are high-performance firewalls, therefore provide protection for a large, distributed, and rapidly expanding educational institution such as CHRIST. The advanced CPU technology, which could effortlessly handle use via an all-in-one solution, fortified the university against the expanding threat landscape.

'We are extremely happy with the Sophos solution. We will also be evaluating Sophos Endpoint Protection for all our locations shortly.'

Manoj T. Thomas
Manager Operations - IT Services
CHRIST

To find out how Sophos can provide solutions for your business, visit www.sophos.com/products.