Traffic Monitoring is Key

Kevin Anderson, Network Engineer and Technical Support for Bellaire Baptist Church tells us about his work with SafeDNS

ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW

Bellaire Baptist Church

LOCATION

Bossier City, Louisiana, US

CHALLENGE

Find a single solution to protect three WiFi hotspots and monitor traffic from them

SOLUTION

SafeDNS web filtering service on Safe@Office plan

IMPACT

The goal is reached with no expenses for the church

Photo: Google.com/maps

THE PROBLEM

Network-wide web filtering is necessary

Bellaire Baptist Church has two campuses – north and south ones. The latter has two networks. One is for public WiFi and another – for church business. The north campus has a single WiFi network – for public and private users. Apart from PCs used for church business there are lots of web-connected devices brought to the locations by church members and the public. One of the locations includes a health club that has a lot of traffic all week.

Regarding the traffic use, Kevin Anderson says, "We do not want to encourage the abuse of our Internet service." Besides, "I have long worried that the church could be involved in something that would reflect poorly on the church and feel filtering Internet usage is a must."

For that the church has used Trend Micro Worry Free Security as a Service. About the solution Anderson says, "We have Trend Micro Worry Free Security as a Service for some time. It works well, but the limitation is that protected devices must have the client software physically installed on them. As I mentioned before, we have a lot of traffic moving in and out of our facilities and there is no filtering for them at all."

THE SOLUTION

SafeDNS cloud service for filtering the internet proves the best among analogues

Anderson had a look at several other filtering solutions but was not quite satisfied with them. Upon learning about SafeDNS free offer of its web content filtering service for places of worship, Bellaire Baptist Church IT Consultant decided to go ahead with it.

He says, "I found implementation process pretty easy and straightforward. I entered our static IP addresses into your Internet console, and then changed the DNS servers in our routers, and Microsoft SBS server. It appears to be working well."

This way SafeDNS filters the web on the level of entire networks. No client software is needed on network users' devices.

THE RESULTS

Monitoring traffic is no less important than blocking inappropriate content

Having deployed SafeDNS filtering system, Anderson notes "I find it useful to be able to separate the three networks, each with its own public IP address, and see what is going on with each one. For example, if content was being blocked for public users, that is one thing, but if staff is involved in those sorts of things, it is important to know this".

"Here is a practical example. During the week the main campus is not heavily used by staff or members of the congregation. We have no security key on that public WiFi so I surmise that what I am seeing blocked is likely nearby neighbors using our Internet. This is useful information to know."

Kevin Anderson is "happy to work with SafeDNS in evaluating and improving its product" which is much appreciated by the company.

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