

Maximizing the power of the internet in education

Rayalaseema University gives students better, safer access to the internet and supports greater academic achievement with next-generation firewalls



“Students gain 50 percent faster and 100 percent safer access to the internet on and off campus with our SonicWALL SuperMassive firewalls.”

Ediga Venkateswarlu, Technical Manager, Rayalaseema University

Customer profile



Company	Rayalaseema University
Industry	Higher Education
Country	India
Employees	400 employees, 3,000 students
Website	www.ruk.ac.in

Business need

Rayalaseema University wanted to give students a better online learning experience by replacing the existing firewall solution that was coming to the end of its working life.

Solution

The university deployed SonicWALL SuperMassive 9200 firewalls configured in an active/active high-availability mode.

Benefits

- Enables better online learning with 50% faster internet connectivity
- Improves IT support for students with 99.999% firewall reliability
- Saves resources by reducing the total cost of ownership for firewalls by 30%
- Enhances IT productivity through simplified firewall management
- Delivers greater returns over the firewalls' lifetime with responsive support

Solutions at a glance

- Security Services
- Servers
- Client Solutions
- Enterprise Deployment

The internet plays a major role in the lives of students at Rayalaseema University. It provides not only an important source of information, but also a channel for communicating and collaborating with colleagues and teachers. Yet, students could never fully realize the value of the web because of the incumbent firewall solution.

The existing solution was going end of life. In addition, the technology had limited functionality. Even key features such as anti-virus, anti-spyware and content filtering were not available. It impacted students because they were plagued by pop-ups and other malware. Lastly, user access to the internet was frequently blocked because of the firewalls' instability. A key problem was the firewalls were configured in active and passive modes, extending the whole failover process.

The firewall search begins

The university sought a new firewall solution and engaged with multiple vendors including Cisco, Fortinet and SonicWALL. Working with Dell and SonicWALL Partner 4Way Solutions, the university ran a proof of concept of SonicWALL SuperMassive Next-Generation 9200 firewall technology. Says Ediga Venkateswarlu, Technical Manager at Rayalaseema University, "We could turn on all the SonicWALL features and not lose any network performance. This was not possible with the other solutions we tried."

Continues a successful relationship built around support

There were other factors that made SonicWALL a strong option. Venkateswarlu explains, "We have been a Dell customer for a number of years.

We've purchased Dell PowerEdge R730 servers and a number of Dell OptiPlex desktops for our labs. We have always been pleased with the performance of Dell solutions, particularly the support services." 4Way Solutions helped with the full deployment of SonicWALL SuperMassive Next-Generation 9200 firewalls at the university. The firewalls were configured in a high-availability (HA) active/active mode for immediate failover if one of the firewalls stop working.

Enables better learning with 50% faster internet connectivity

The university has significantly improved network protection while improving internet performance for end users. With all the firewalls' features engaged, plus the security services such as gateway anti-virus, anti-spyware and anti-spam, users have both better connectivity and no longer suffer from malware attacks. "Students gain 50 percent faster and 100 percent safer access to the internet on and off campus with our SonicWALL SuperMassive firewalls," says Venkateswarlu. "It all contributes to an environment for greater academic achievement."

Improves IT support for students and staff with 99.999% reliability

Everybody at the university has seen a much needed enhancement in the stability of the internet connection. Today, the SonicWALL solution is delivering 99.999 percent reliability, a significant improvement on the previous solution's 50 percent reliability figures.

Saves resources by reducing the total cost of ownership for firewalls by 30%

Venkateswarlu says the SonicWALL firewall solution delivers a lower total

Products & Services

Hardware

SonicWALL SuperMassive Next-Generation 9200 firewalls

cost of ownership for a number of reasons. For example, the university paid a one-off fee for the HA architecture while vendors normally apply an annual licensing charge. Venkateswarlu estimates the TCO for the SonicWALL solution is about 30 percent less than competing technologies.

Enhances IT productivity through simplified firewall management

The IT team can work more efficiently because the firewall solution is easy to administer. "We can do more in a single working day since we now spend so little time managing our SonicWALL SuperMassive 9200 firewalls. This allows us to really drive our Bring Your Own Device strategy," comments Venkateswarlu.

Greater returns over the lifetime of the firewall with responsive support

The university is confident its faith in SonicWALL will pay off. Comments Venkateswarlu, "We have been a Dell customer for many years and value the level of post-sales service. In fact, Dell has always provided us with a fast response whenever we have any questions regarding SonicWALL. The service is very professional."

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