Birmingham Public Schools Secures Its Network and Learning Devices With a Unified Platform

INDUSTRY
Education

HEADQUARTERS
Birmingham, MI, USA

COMPANY SIZE
7,500 students;1,000 staff

OVERVIEW

Birmingham Public Schools (BPS) is a K-12 school system in Birmingham, Michigan. It consistently ranks among the highest-achieving districts in Michigan, with students earning some of the highest test scores in the state.

OUR SOLUTION

Quantum
Secure the Network

CHALLENGE

BPS's mission is to "provide educational excellence that empowers students to cultivate their individual brilliance and positively impact their world." Central to achieving this goal is a one-to-one program that provides each student with their own computer. With an extensive network spanning 15 schools, two data centers and a robust server environment, BPS's dedicated Technology Services team is committed to ensuring that nothing impedes the teaching and learning process — including security risks.

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As cybercriminals increasingly target school districts and educational institutions, the district recognizes the importance of keeping pace with an evolving threat environment. "We're entrusted with people's children, and that means keeping them safe — both physically and digitally," said Zach Riley-Kelley, Executive Director of Technology Services for BPS. "We take that trust very seriously." To protect students' and staff members' personally identifiable information (PII), Riley-Kelley must diligently maintain the cyber health of the district's systems and data.

SOLUTION

The district has been a Check Point customer for more than 20 years. "We chose — and continue to choose — Check Point for their excellent industry record and consistent high performance," said Riley-Kelley. BPS deploys Check Point Quantum Spark Pro Next Generation Firewalls in a high-availability configuration across both data centers. This deployment ensures that the district's network is always protected. "What surprised me the most about the Quantum Spark firewalls was the ease of use," said Riley-Kelley. "Going in, I assumed you had to be a cybersecurity expert, but it's really intuitive and easy to use. The reports and visibility have been incredibly valuable to us."

Check Point's Intrusion Prevention System (IPS) provides reliable protection from both known and zero-day threats. "The IPS blade keeps us protected from threats targeting our network with the intent of compromising data," said Riley-Kelley. IPS is constantly updated with real-time threat data, ensuring BPS's firewalls offer continuous protection from emerging threats. Riley-Kelley further augments the effectiveness of his Check Point firewall solutions with Quantum Titan. The unified cybersecurity management platform continuously monitors network events and allows him to access gateway features such as access control, policy installation, rules, API support, logging and reporting — all through a single pane of glass.

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Zach Riley-Kelley, Executive Director of Technology Services,
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OUTCOME

With Check Point, Riley-Kelley can protect BPS's systems and data — even while operating with limited budget and staffing. "The Check Point Quantum Spark firewalls solve a lot of problems for us with one piece of technology," he said. With unified threat intelligence and policy management, Riley-Kelley has real-time visibility of the district's cyber health via an intuitive dashboard. As a security champion in the education sector, Riley-Kelley hopes other school systems will think critically about their security posture and leverage solutions like Quantum Spark that allow them to maximize their scarce resources.

BPS values its partnership with Check Point, which is built on collaboration and innovation. "Check Point has really simplified our decision-making," said Riley-Kelley. "They help us refine the solutions we have in place and allow us to customize our approach for what we actually need. Their willingness to get in the technical 'weeds' with us allows us to make sure we're as secure as possible and our students are protected."

ABOUT CHECK POINT

Check Point Software Technologies Ltd. is the trusted cybersecurity solutions provider for over 100,000 SMBs, corporate enterprises and governments globally. With an industry-leading catch rate for zero-day, ransomware and generation V cyberattacks, Check Point Infinity's unified platform delivers unparalleled threat visibility, intelligence and prevention across enterprise environments — from remote users and cloud deployments to network perimeters and data centers. Together, our solutions work seamlessly to drive productivity, reduce costs and enable real-time security monitoring.

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