



CASE STUDY: CHARLESTON SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

Foundry Networks and Impulse Point Partnership Replaces Cisco Network and NAC Solution



SUMMARY

Founded in 1964, Charleston Southern University (CSU) is located near historic Charleston and the beautiful beaches of the South Carolina coastline. As one of South Carolina's largest accredited independent universities, with over 3,000 students, the University has been named to the John Templeton Foundation's Honor Roll of Character Building Colleges and has gained recognition as an institution dedicated to helping students develop intellectually, socially, culturally and spiritually. CSU is affiliated with the South Carolina Southern Baptist Convention and is dedicated to promoting academic excellence in a Christian environment for all faiths.

The recipient of several technology firsts and accolades, including becoming the first all wireless campus in South Carolina, CSU is committed to using technology to enhance the learning experience and student life. With that commitment comes the need to ensure that users are authenticated prior to being given access to network resources, and that their computing device's security posture is validated.

OBJECTIVE

A university campus environment is, by its very nature, open and dynamic. Students, faculty, staff, and guests must be given easy access to a campus network, that is simultaneously securing and protecting the university from potential threats.

Each new user on the CSU campus must agree to the university's technology code of conduct before being given access to the network. Previously, annual paper contracts were mailed to students prior to the start of the school year and then manually processed. This involved coordination between multiple campus departments and was time consuming and inefficient. CSU had been using Cisco's Network Access Control (NAC) solution which required burdensome administrative support and maintenance. The Cisco Clean Access client software was also difficult to install and lacked an intuitive Web-based user interface. In addition, Cisco's support to the university had become less responsive, while maintenance costs continued to escalate.

"We needed a new solution that would not only provide the NAC capabilities we need on campus but also partners we could rely on long after the system was in place," explains Rusty Bruns, Chief Information Officer. "The combined Foundry Networks and Impulse Point solution provided the network infrastructure performance, and simplified network access control to address our dynamic campus environment, and delivered something we had been lacking—a strong working relationship focused on delivering a flexible solution for our university."

SOLUTION

Together, Foundry Networks and Impulse Point (a Foundry Networks Premier NAC Partner), delivered a more secure and predictable campus network solution that offered the ability to manage specific IT endpoint security policies such as identity-based user access, anti-virus and anti-spyware protection, patch maintenance levels, access points, and peer-to-peer file sharing.

The joint solution, which consists of Foundry's high performance network infrastructure and Impulse Point's Safe•Connect NAC solution, provided the improved functionality the university needed and helped to reduce ongoing maintenance and support costs. Best of all, it streamlined and automated the process whereby students view and accept CSU's technology code of conduct. This intuitive and educational process allows students to remediate their security compliance issues without involving the university's help desk group.

WWW.CSUNIV.EDU

INDUSTRY

Education

COMPANY DESCRIPTION

Charleston Southern University is a four-year liberal arts school situated on 300 acres near historic Charleston.

OBJECTIVE

- Protect the university from security threats while simplifying network access and enhancing network performance

SOLUTION

- Foundry Networks infrastructure and Impulse Point Safe•Connect NAC solution

RESULTS

- Improved network and endpoint security protection, simplified NAC administration, and enhanced end user satisfaction

“We’ve taken what was a manual process and completely automated it,” says Bruns. “When accessing the network for the first time, users now experience a Web log-in with user-friendly instructions that explain our technology policy, and they simply click to accept its terms and access the network. It’s easier for the students, more efficient for the campus staff, and has ultimately ensured that each and every user is aware of our policy before gaining access to network resources. It’s a win-win for everyone.”

Safe•Connect’s OpenNAC architecture utilizes Foundry sFlow, Policy Based Routing, and optional 802.1x capabilities in conjunction with Impulse Point’s I-LAN host-based Layer 2 quarantine technology to offer the industry’s broadest range of device containment alternatives. Users connecting to the campus network can be isolated and authenticated prior to gaining access to critical network resources using Impulse’s I-LAN Quarantine Technology. Users that are noncompliant with the school’s policies are offered guidance on how to resolve their policy breaches, reducing the number of technical support issues the CSU team must address and freeing their time for more strategic, higher return-on-investment IT initiatives.

RESULTS

The Foundry Networks and Impulse Point partnership delivered a turnkey solution that ensures the CSU network is protected from threats and vulnerabilities, with reduced maintenance costs, and improved service and support, which resulted in a business relationship that continues to thrive to meet the changing needs of the university.

“From the very beginning it was the partnership between Foundry and Impulse Point that set this solution apart,” concludes Bruns. “They worked closely together to ensure our requirements were met and continue to be there to support the university. Every day we see the benefits of the combined solution and the strong partnership the companies have forged.”

Notes Bruns, “I’d never experienced such a strong partnership where each company was absolutely committed to ensuring the joint solution was working to meet our needs.”

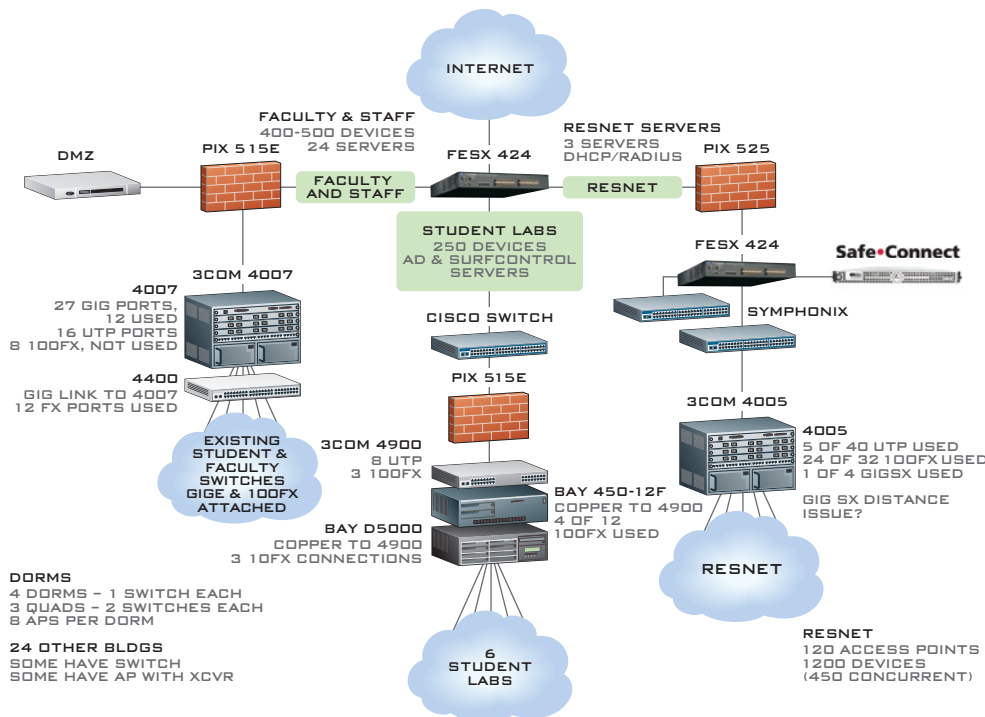
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– Rusty Bruns,
Chief Information Officer

CHARLESTON SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

CURRENT NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE



FOUNDRY NETWORKS

Foundry Networks, Inc. (NASDAQ: FDRY) is a leading provider of high-performance enterprise and service provider switching, routing, security and Web traffic management solutions, including Layer 2/3 LAN switches, Layer 3 Backbone switches, Layer 4-7 application switches, wireless LAN and access points, metro and core routers. Foundry’s customers include the world’s premier ISPs, metro service providers, and enterprises, including e-commerce sites, universities, entertainment, health and wellness, government, financial and manufacturing companies. For more information about the company and its products, call 1.888.TURBOLAN or visit www.foundrynet.com.

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