University of Ballarat, Victoria, Australia
Providing Quality Education in a Secure Environment

**Situation**
The University of Ballarat in Victoria, Australia, is one of the country's newest and most progressive universities with major campuses in Ballarat, Horsham, Stawell and Ararat. The university had its beginnings in the School of Mines and Industries Ballarat in 1870, but was declared a University only in 1994. The University of Ballarat is a regional, dual sector University serving Central and Western Victoria, as well as other parts of Australia and overseas. It has strategic and close links with local industry and technology. The University has to provide computing resources to serve a wide range of users, from general computing and networking services for its staff and annual enrolment of 22,000 students to highly specialized computing resources for highly confidential and valuable research.

Educational institutions have a similar need for network security as businesses, but there are some additional complications. Universities and schools need to provide open access to the Internet, but they also need to ensure that students do not become unwitting victims of viruses, worms, Trojans, spyware and other malware on the Internet. Universities need to maintain acceptable service levels for computing and networking resources, but they also need to ensure that these resources are not abused, such as using the campus network to illegally download copyrighted music or software. Another challenge is ensuring that intellectual property developed by the faculty research is not compromised or stolen by unauthorized users. A supportive IT environment had to be setup and maintained while working on a restricted budget.

The University of Ballarat had a data protection solution that was fast approaching End-Of-Life (EOL). This solution proved to be insufficently effective in countering the increasing sophistication and frequency of network threats. On several occasions, worms brought down the network, and two attacks were particularly severe.

"Because we are a relatively small university, we don't have the resources to sit around managing a complex box." David Edwards, Manager of ICT Networks and Infrastructure at the University of Ballarat. "Existing software solutions were difficult to manage and had a steep learning curve. We needed a solution that was easy to use, update and manage."

**Solution**
"We evaluated several vendors and we eventually engaged ManageNET, a Fortinet reseller. They were very helpful, working with us over the past year, suggesting options and lending us FortiGate devices to test. They also generated reports from the data collected during our trials," said David Edwards.

ManageNET provides managed security services to customers. These
University of Ballarat, Victoria, Australia

Providing Quality Education in a Secure Environment

services consist of a secured network link to the customer’s network, through which ManageNET remotely manages and monitors security, performance and operational aspects of the customer’s computing assets. ManageNET also provides reports, feedback and alerts to the customer.

ManageNET proposed Fortinet’s FortiGate™ range of network protection products to meet the requirements of the University of Ballarat for a network intrusion detection and prevention (IDP) deployment. The real-time capabilities for IDP and network-based anti-virus protection would provide effective protection against "content-based" threats, such as viruses, worms, Trojans and other malware, whether they originated internally or externally. FortiProtect™ services would provide automated, continuous updates of the latest virus and malware signatures to the FortiGate security platform, so no user intervention was necessary to keep protection current with the latest threats.

ManageNET deployed two FortiGate™-3600 in a clustered High-Availability configuration in the University. Beginning with the implementation of anti-virus and firewall protection and IDP functions, the University plans to gradually phase in other security functions, such as content-filtering, anti-spam, traffic-shaping, and Virtual Private Networking (VPN).

Success

David Edwards says that the Fortinet solution deployed and managed by ManageNET met all his requirements for ease of use, automated updates and manageability. The University of Ballarat’s network has run problem-free since its installation, though the test will come when the first semester of 2005 begins in February.

"With 3,000 users on the network, we were caught by the Sasser worm last year, which almost brought down our systems. This year, with the Fortinet solution in place, we have much better protection," says David Edwards. "Peace of mind on a limited budget - that’s what I would call value for money."

FortiGate™ Antivirus Firewalls are dedicated, hardware-based units that deliver complete, real-time network protection services at the network edge. The FortiGate-3600 Firewall is a high performance system that delivers gigabit throughput with exceptional reliability for the most demanding large enterprise and service provider environments. FortiGate systems deliver a full range of network-level services - including firewall, VPN, intrusion prevention, content filtering, traffic shaping and anti-spam -- providing complete network protection services in dedicated, easily managed platforms.

To Learn More About Fortinet Visit Fortinet.com

* 2005 Fortinet, Inc. All rights reserved. Fortinet, FortiGate, FortiGuard, FortiManager, FortiProtect are trademarks of Fortinet, Inc. in the United States and/or other countries. The names of actual companies and products mentioned herein may be the trademarks of their respective owners. CAS1160503