

ISONet – Security for the Education Revolution

ISONet – earthwave’s managed security services offering delivers the benefits of accessing the technical needs of the future for the students of today.

Sydney, AUST., 21 February 2008, earthwave, the leading Australian IT managed security services provider today publicly launched *ISONet*, a secure carrier neutral network and Internet gateway and internet portal for schools, in response to the sharp increase in school IT security issues as the Rudd Labor governments’ ‘digital education revolution’ kicks off.

ISONet – The Independent Schools Online Network is a secure Wide Area Network initiative developed by earthwave in conjunction with the Association of Independent Schools NSW (AIS). The project has been designed to provide independent schools with access to secure high quality broadband data services, essential internet resources and managed security at sustainable rates.

The project, which has been deployed to more than 50 schools since its inception has witnessed the average student usage rise from 15Mb per month to over 200Mb, and with the promised \$1 billion in extra funding and ‘one computer per child’ the rate is set to sky rocket over the next four years.

“The rise in computer usage and increase in classroom activity performed on the web can be directly correlated with the increase in risk of exposure to malware and other harmful material” comments Carlo Minassian, managing director of earthwave. “At the moment *ISONet* blocks up to 60% of traffic bound for schools as it is unsolicited and about 85% of email traffic is blocked at *ISONet* because it is spam.”

Ian Scott, IT Manager for St Andrews Cathedral College has been using *ISONet* since 2004 and said “*ISONet* is great as it provides access to a managed network, reduced connectivity and data costs, centrally located content and web filtering, virus protection, network firewalls, network intrusion prevention, distributed denial of service protection, and importantly a high level of network security.”

Frank Brooks, Director of ICT for the Association of Independent Schools NSW forewarns; “with the new education policy, security must become a top priority for school ICT managers, particularly as Gen Y use lots of Web 2.0 websites like Facebook, MySpace and Youtube, which are rich with content, features, AJAX-enabled applications and embedded JavaScripts, delivering PC processing that leaves the user vulnerable to exploitation.”

It is not all doom and gloom – *ISONet* also provides access for secure sharing of education resources within the network. This also allows for video conferencing, which in the last 12 months has experienced exponential growth as teachers and school administrators take advantage of its full potential. For example, using the technologies ability to make light work of distance education – teaching subjects remotely or easily accessing teachers with specialty skills and training as well as providing excellent means for collaboration.

ISONet gives students fast access to quality online content such as virtual tours of museums for art and science classes, e-books for those not available at the school or local library, and access to the latest news and current affairs.

Online communication across great distances, such as interaction with overseas students for foreign language classes and webchats with subject experts is another major drawcard of the service.

“ISONet benefits many people within the school organisation. Business managers appreciate technical services delivered at known fixed costs and IT administrators and staff have greater control over the school’s technology environment and student activities. This allows them to leave concentrating on complex security and filtering tasks to focus on supporting teachers and students to use technology effectively” said Frank Brooks.

About earthwave

earthwave provides around-the-clock (24x7) network security management and end-to-end network security services to protect an organisation’s critical information assets. earthwave provides the key to protecting and strengthening enterprise value in the e-era. We combine many years of information security experience with proprietary tools, proven methodologies, and the largest commercial database of known threats and vulnerabilities in the information security world. Using industry leading data mining and correlation technology, earthwave transforms network-monitoring data into powerful information, enabling companies and organisations to confidently compete in today’s electronic marketplace.

We specialise in network security and information integrity. No other company can match the technical and industry expertise of earthwave’s elite pool of resources. With all of our technical staff holding high-level security certifications and government clearances, we bring to the commercial market accumulated experience handling the most sensitive and sophisticated secure network environments.

Headquartered in Sydney, earthwave specialises in proactive network security management through a comprehensive and integrated set of offerings including: Managed Security Services, Secure Internet Gateway, Security Consulting, Secure Hosting, and Security Solutions.

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