

# Peninsula Grammar draws the line with malware

Malwarebytes stops laptop infections, prevents ransomware, and saves time for IT

## INDUSTRY

Education

## BUSINESS CHALLENGE

Stop malware infections to give students more learning time

## IT ENVIRONMENT

Windows Defender, firewalls

## SOLUTION

Malwarebytes Endpoint Security

## RESULTS

- Reduced infections by more than 90 percent
- Prevented infection from WannaCry ransomware
- Reclaimed hours of time for the IT team from cleaning infected machines
- Enabled proactive protection for laptops

## Business profile

Peninsula Grammar is the Mornington Peninsula's premier co-educational school, offering almost 1400 Kindergarten to Year 12 students exceptional education and a warm and nurturing school environment. When malware became an obstacle to learning and IT productivity, Peninsula Grammar engaged Malwarebytes to protect its staff, students and parents.



Peninsula Grammar takes information and communications technology (ICT) security extremely seriously. We rely heavily on ICT, so any issues have a big impact. Malwarebytes goes a long way to helping us proactively protect our school.

—Mr. Graeme Newland, Director of Information Technology, Peninsula Grammar

## Business challenge

Stop the remediation craziness

Peninsula Grammar has a strong focus on and commitment to supporting students' learning through relevant and innovative use of technology. Years 5 and 6 students use school-owned laptops while students in Years 7 to 12 own their laptops, which they use for coursework. The school is also responsible for staff laptops and desktop systems around campus for more than 200 staff.

When students took their laptops home during the June school holidays, many of them came back with multiple malware infections. As the new term began, the school's firewall blocked malware, preventing students from getting online. Students brought their laptops to the IT team, which spent anywhere from 30 minutes to more than an hour cleaning each one. When a machine was badly infected, the IT team had to re-image it.

"Students were queued up with laptops to be fixed," said Mr. Graeme Newland, Director of Information Technology at Peninsula Grammar. "We saw at least 20 students in the first week and between 40 and 60 for the month."



The school had been using a traditional antivirus, but not only did malware evade it, malware disabled it. Once the antivirus was compromised, it no longer received updates so students' laptops were running outdated virus databases and could no longer access online content effectively. Hijacked browsers, Potentially Unwanted Programs (PUPs), and other malware ground machines to a halt, resulting in classroom downtime and more IT man-hours spent on remediation.

## The solution

### Malwarebytes Endpoint Security

"The flood of students coming through the door wasn't stemming at all," said Mr. Newland, "and the traditional antivirus was no help either. We started looking for a better solution."

The team had past experiences with Norton and Trend Micro solutions, but they came with a high level of equipment and management overhead. They tried ESET and then Malwarebytes.

"Previously, we used Malwarebytes only to clean up infections," said Mr. James Caudwell, Laptop Technician at Peninsula Grammar. "We tried the comprehensive, real-time Malwarebytes Endpoint Security solution, and the difference between Malwarebytes and the other solutions was black and white. It was impressively effective and simple to manage."

The Peninsula Grammar IT team sat down with their Malwarebytes representative, who went through best practices and demonstrated how the multiple layers of security in Malwarebytes work.

"In one exercise, we turned off one layer of protection at a time and we were still protected," said Mr. Newland. "It was an eye-opening experience to get insight down to that level."

## Amazing results

The team deployed Malwarebytes using the Management Console. As soon as it was deployed, Malwarebytes cleaned thousands of items from students' laptops. When the global WannaCry ransomware attack struck, not a single incident occurred at the school.

"The results were amazing," said Mr. Caudwell. "We were instantly impressed. Malwarebytes reduced infections by well over 90 percent, which greatly increased uptime for students. It completely stopped PUPs from coming in the door."

## Significant time savings

Client devices are scanned regularly, which has reduced student walk-in traffic to a trickle and is a huge time-saver for the IT team who now have more time to spend on high-priority projects. Through the Management Console, the IT team monitors top threat levels, risk reports, and trends. When they see student laptops with consistently high levels of threats, they can proactively educate them about safer ways to surf the Internet.

## Increased confidence

Australian data privacy regulations demand that endpoints are secure and protected from data leaks and hacks. The team takes extraordinary measures to protect the school and prevent attacks from succeeding. In addition to complying with regulations, strong security on endpoints gives staff and students more confidence that they are protected.

"Peninsula Grammar takes ICT security extremely seriously," said Mr. Newland. "Malwarebytes goes a long way to helping us proactively protect our school."

## | About

Malwarebytes is the next-gen cybersecurity company that millions worldwide trust. Malwarebytes proactively protects people and businesses against dangerous threats such as malware, ransomware, and exploits that escape detection by traditional antivirus solutions. The company's flagship product combines advanced heuristic threat detection with signature-less technologies to detect and stop a cyberattack before damage occurs. More than 10,000 businesses worldwide use, trust, and recommend Malwarebytes. Founded in 2008, the company is headquartered in California, with offices in Europe and Asia, and a global team of threat researchers and security experts.

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