Glasshouse Christian College – Cybersecurity Solutions Case Study

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Overview

Glasshouse Christian College is a Prep-through-Year 12 private school of 1,100 students located on the Sunshine Coast in Queensland.

Somerville's National Sales Manager, Rob Perry sat down with Roland Munyard, Glasshouse's Head of Information Technology, and Joshua Whysall, Infrastructure Engineer, and discussed their challenges and how they implemented a new solution to deliver improvements to their security environment.

Challenges

Glasshouse has a strong focus on innovation in their curriculum, with an emphasis on using technology: their IT environment includes 900+ student devices.

They identified the following challenges that necessitated a new security solution:

- "Our existing security system is not delivering expected or needed performance, is not making our lives easier, and is forcing limitations to existing operations."
- "There's insufficient or absent reporting, poor visibility into processes and performance, and no automation for routine or resource-intensive functions."
- "We have limited identification and mitigation of potential vulnerabilities, including those introduced by the shift to distance

learning."
- "Our current system does not appropriately categorise between staff and students."

Assessment and Solutions

Schools, universities and academic organisations are uniquely vulnerable to cyberattacks in this new post pandemic learning environment. However, their requirement is not only for strong security, but also a solution that is easy to deploy, user friendly, and does not require extra resource inputs that compete with the core academic mission.

We recognised several areas for Glasshouse that necessitated solutions. Somerville services + CrowdStrike solutions are an integrated platform for enhanced performance, while simultaneously reducing complexity and adding value.

Glasshouse's security enhancements at a glance:

Single-pane control panel that provides full system visibility.
"CrowdStrike's solution is lightweight, and they worked with our team to completely understand and manage it."

Instead of a clumsy aggregation of overlapping, competing or incompatible systems, we provided a single panel system that integrates control and visibility into an easy-to-use platform. Now Glasshouse's security functions are more effective, but with less complexity and potential to impede other operations.

Security reporting and process automation. "The new system is friendly to use, with full reporting and automated processes."

AI and machine intelligence applications now assume the burden of routine security functions, including reporting tasks. Process automation

is reducing errors, managing risk better, and improving performance across a variety of operations. Glasshouse's data is now doing much of the security work, providing insights for faster and better security decisions.

Comprehensive vulnerability audit. "CrowdStrike identified 47,000+ vulnerabilities that our previous system had overlooked."

Appropriate mitigation measures included patching and updating, system configuration adjustments, and implementing CrowdStrike solutions for advanced anti-malware, antivirus, endpoint detection and response (EDR), threat intelligence, and threat hunting capabilities. Glasshouse staff and students are now operating with less risk in today's security environment.

Appropriate user categorisation. "The solution was very easy to deploy, and categorises between staff and students."

We engineered a categorisation system that differentiates Glasshouse students from staff and manages access, privileges, and controls appropriately. This provides not only enhanced security, but also a better user experience for everyone.

Outcomes

Glasshouse Christian College is now enjoying the benefits of a Somerville services + CrowdStrike solutions platform that is effective, seamless, non-intrusive, and scales as their needs adjust:

- Enhanced protection against theft of student data, breaches, phishing and credential misuse, damage to technology resources, and ransomware attacks
- Security automation and support for continuous improvement
- Ability to focus on mission-critical education operations

- Access to 24/7 support and experienced Security Licensing Managers

"Somerville's Education Specialist, Danny Thien was pivotal in helping us make informed choices. His experience in education was critical in helping CrowdStrike understand the education vertical. He also helped customise and negotiate the pricing model, which hadn't been done for us previously."

Roland Munyard, Glasshouse Christian College, Head of Information Technology

Learn More About Somerville + CrowdStrike

If you recognise one or more of the same challenges Glasshouse needed resolved, let's begin a conversation about your security needs. Somerville offer a FREE consultation that can provide insights into your security environment, and recommendations for a more effective security management program custom-tailored for academic organisations.

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