

Dispersed Programs Call For Flexible Internet Filtering

Butler Technology and Career Development Schools

Butler Technology and Career Development, in Fairchild Township, Ohio, is a public school, but far from a typical program. To meet a sundry set of situational needs, Butler Tech provides career education for more than 6,300 high school students and 7,900 adult students annually through programs at its D. Russel Lee Career-Technology Center campus and nine associate school districts.

As a public school, Butler must meet the criteria every public school is required to uphold in terms of making school computers safe from unwanted content and Internet porn.

Butler's challenge is even greater, however, in that it offers an online high school program. The majority of Butler's students are working from school-provided computers that they are actually using at home. Butler also supports the computer lab resources for several of the county's traditional schools.

The Internet access from the traditional schools is already protected; however, Butler needs to take that protection still further. For home school users, Butler needs to manage a vast number of users remotely. They also need to manage Internet use to prevent students from using the computers for playing games, playing music, and other non-school related activities. Without direct supervision, it's important that the school and the district have a means of keeping these users on task.

For Butler, it is also critical that their filtering solution provides accurate reporting. If kids aren't performing, it's important to know what they've been doing with their time on the computer and their Internet access to help understand why.

Butler's choice, for two years running, is the ContentProtect product from ContentWatch, Inc.

Said Kip Hamilton, Supervisor of the Online High School Program, "We did some searches and were actually looking at another software suite we thought was going to work for us, but we ran into some issues. When we tried to shoot this program out remotely to the computers we needed to manage, the other product wouldn't let us do this without difficulty."

"We found ContentWatch in an Internet search and we could see it had all the components we were looking for," Hamilton added.



Hamilton also noted that the ContentWatch product is easy to use. As supervisor of the online high school program, he fills the principal role, and is managing the technology aspects of the comprehensive program ad hoc. Now into his second year of use, he is entirely pleased with his choice.

“ContentWatch fits our needs very well. We are able to easily allow sites, block sites, and even block the components of sites we find objectionable. And we were also pleased to find this product at a very reasonable cost.”

