

Georgia College Eliminates Bandwidth Strain & Improves User Experience

Georgia College is a public liberal arts university in Milledgeville, Georgia. The school caters to more than 6,600 undergraduate and graduate students in four colleges – with more than 300 faculty and administration.

With the surge of mobile devices on campus and bandwidth draining applications like streaming video, Georgia College needed a cost-effective solution that would help them better manage network resources without having to continually upgrade bandwidth.

The Challenge

The goal of Georgia College's IT department is to ensure all students and faculty, both on and off campus, have reliable and consistent access to the applications they want to use - whether they're academic, administrative, social or streaming apps.

In an attempt to ensure fair use of network resources, the IT department implemented a 10MB bandwidth cap per user, however they were routinely hitting capacity during peak classroom hours on campus as well as during peak evening hours across housing - drastically impacting the performance of all applications.



"The frequent use of applications like YouTube and Netflix were draining our network resources and causing a poor user experience. To meet the usage demands of students and teachers we had to constantly increase bandwidth, which wasn't a sustainable solution." - Charlie Weaver, Director of Network Services & VoIP Telecommunications





The Solution

After evaluating several solutions, Georgia College selected an Exinda 8062 appliance to replace its legacy packet shaping solution that simply could not provide the visibility and control of the applications they needed to ensure a great user experience.

IT Staff now have a comprehensive view of how well applications are performing and can optimize how network resources are being used to ensure apps, whether for learning or recreation, always perform at their best for every user. By focusing on controlling the applications, they are able to ensure their critical apps perform reliably and consistently while limiting the impact of recreational apps. They no longer hit their bandwidth capacity limit and have removed the 10MB per user bandwidth cap.

The Results

With Exinda, Georgia College is only using 75% of their available network resources and no longer needs to invest in a costly bandwidth upgrade. IT Staff is able to identify bandwidth hogging activity like BitTorrent downloads and iOS updates and set limits to ensure it doesn't impact user experience. User complaints have decreased and the performance of both recreational and learning applications has greatly improved.



“We chose Exinda because we needed a superior and more cost-effective solution that would give us granular control over the applications running across our network. Our old packet shaping solution just wasn't doing that for us.” - Charlie Weaver, Director of Network Services & VoIP Telecommunications



Improved User Experience
for All Applications

“We just always assumed we needed to give everyone a bandwidth cap and never considered looking at it from the application side. But right out of the box, Exinda eliminated our bandwidth issue and ensured all of the applications had the network resources they needed for a great user experience.” Charlie Weaver, Director of Network Services & VoIP Telecommunications



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