

## Success Story



### BHAK Eisenstadt - Safe IT Surfing 101

#### Astaro Web Filtering at Austrian Business School.

In Austria's Burgenland county, BHAK/HAS Eisenstadt, a business school and commercial academy, is the largest vocational school. Supervised by a staff of 70 teachers, more than 650 students are tutored in line with the demands of today's business world. As a center for microeconomics, the faculty's modern IT infrastructure consists of eight IT auditoriums and a multimedia center. There are specialized laptop courses, and students are linked to an internal e-learning platform leveraging the latest standards in computer technology. On campus, the unified threat management solution Astaro Security Gateway allows secure data access, provides encrypted VPN connectivity, and protects PCs against viruses, worms, hacker attacks, and illicit web content.



Director Mag. Dr. Helga Brosch positions BHAK/HAS Eisenstadt as a future role model for business schools, characterized by thorough IT education and entrepreneurial, innovative thinking:

"Our students are offered comprehensive IT knowhow, while the school's educational goal is also to increase understanding in business processes and teamwork skills."

### Internet as a School Subject

The school's staff utilizes modern teaching methods, embracing notebook and e-learning lessons, so that permanent Internet access is part of everyday curricular activities. All of the students have wireless LAN access on campus.

Mag. Christian Fuchs, IT systems administrator at the Austrian business school, is responsible for the creation of a highly productive infrastructure.

"Within the realms of an educational facility it is mandatory to establish a secure and fully

functional network platform providing instant computer access to learning material during classes, while blocking inappropriate web content which is unsuitable for educational environments", the teacher says.

"In this context you cannot stress enough the importance of the correct reporting tools in order to track individual user activity."

This is also in accordance with upcoming compliance requirements set by government legislation.

#### About Astaro

Astaro is a leader in delivering Internet security appliances. The Astaro Security Gateway simplifies Email, Web & Network Security and has won numerous industry awards as it protects over 30,000 networks in 60 countries. Astaro products are distributed by a worldwide partner network with more than 1,000 solution partners offering local support and services. Astaro Corporation is headquartered in Karlsruhe, Germany, and Burlington, USA.



#### Europe, Middle East, Africa

Astaro AG  
Amalienbadstr. 36  
76227 Karlsruhe  
Germany  
T: +49 721 255 16 0  
F: +49 721 255 16 200  
emea@astaro.com

#### Americas

Astaro Corporation  
3 New England Executive Park  
Burlington, MA 01803  
USA  
T: +1 781 345 5000  
F: +1 781 345 5100  
americas@astaro.com

Visit [www.astaro.com](http://www.astaro.com)

## The Challenge

In this scenario, the task was to equip 200 seats with firewall protection against Internet attacks. A key criteria was to limit Internet access to online material in line with the facility's educational requirements, in order to prevent young students from downloading inappropriate web content. Due to security and data privacy considerations, wireless LAN access needed to be limited to encrypted VPN connections only. Another integral part of

strategic project planning was to find a filter solution for email communication which circumvents the flooding of mail accounts with spam messages.

Lastly, in addition to comprehensive reporting functionality, the school's administration staff was on the outlook for simple and cost-effective administration capabilities.

## Effective Web Content Filtering

Together with IT consultants of JT-Computer, the business school tested several security solutions for almost one year. "We have found out in almost every instance that Astaro has always been ahead of competition", Anton Koch, Managing Director at JT-Computer, summarizes the test results. "At any rate, we were looking for a vendor with fast response times. In the course of this project, Astaro proved to be able to react very quickly whenever there were questions on our behalf."

In June 2007, IT experts of JT-Computer installed the Unified Threat Management appliance Astaro Security Gateway V7 on two mirrored HP ProLiant DL380 G5 servers, and configured the corresponding set of firewall and intrusion protection rules. Through Astaro's intuitive GUI platform, forbidding inappropriate web and email traffic simply requires simple checkmarks in the administration interface. On campus, all of the installed Linux and Windows computers are now protected against viruses and cyber attacks; Internet connections to websites with pornographic and violent content are

blocked categorically. Using SSL VPN clients, notebooks within the business school's wireless LAN connect to Astaro Security Gateway which means they can safely access Internet and internal network data.

"At the very beginning, LDAP authentication to backend servers wasn't an easy process as there were a number of factors that caused performance loss", recalls Anton Koch. "However, Astaro's support team right away provided us with very effective workarounds, and with the installation of version 7.1 the software provided increased performance and throughput." Additionally, the security solution's reporting functionality puts the school's IT team in the comfortable position of fulfilling upcoming legislation concerning compliance requirements. Says Christian Fuchs: "For example, we are now able to verify at any time when a given user starts suspicious activities inside the computer network, with full reporting and logging."

## Conclusion

Security vendors like Astaro are subject to unique conditions within academic environments. First of all, security systems need to be affordable for educational facilities with close financial budget limitations. Second, a solution's customer-friendliness is under minute scrutiny as usually there are no dedicated and trained security experts available for the necessary administration work. And third, as for the user side, one has to be prepared for risky and creative student

behavior. Without security technology installed, adolescents will take advantage of Internet file sharing services and other applications aside of class activities. "At our school, Astaro's security solution ensures smooth operation, and VPN access for students during classes works extremely well", summarizes Christian Fuchs. "In case we encounter difficulties, Astaro's support team has always offered fast and competent help."

## BHAK/BHAS



Offering a business training and general education program combined with foreign language courses (English, French, Spanish), BHAK/HAS Eisenstadt is the largest business school in Burgenland, Austria. The facility's curriculum focuses on microeconomics, accounting, IT business and office management training. Graduates have the choice of acquiring additional skills, including the Cambridge Certificate, a chamber of commerce degree, and basic training in SAP/R3.

## JT Computer



JT-Computer specializes in network technology, e-commerce, Internet security, and business specific software solutions. As an IT consulting specialist with a range of clients as diverse as Axima, Vila Vita Hotels, and non-profit organizations like Caritas and the Red Cross, JT-Computer also works with government agencies, notably Austria's Ministry of Education, Art and Culture and the region's institute of business development. Additionally, the company's list of customers includes hardware manufacturers such as Acer and Hewlett-Packard, software vendors like Novell and Microsoft, plus Telcos like Telekom Austria and Mobilkom Austria.