A Scalable and Personal Solution

East Helena School District put its Trust in Pine Cove to Implement an Industry-Leading Firewall and Support the District as it Grows.

- Pine Cove Consulting implemented an industry-leading firewall for the district and continues to help the district achieve its technology goals.

The Client

Located just east of Montana's capitol city, Helena, East Helena School District is a growing district that services just under 1400 students and an additional 250 teachers and staff. The district recently made the transition from a K-8 school district to a complete K-12 school district cosisting of five different schools.

DJ Howell, the district's technology coordinator, stays busy overseeing the district's IT needs which include the district's one-to-one policy of providing each student either an iPad or Chromebook. On top of the one-to-one oversight, DJ also manages the district's networking, desktops, servers, and more!

DJ began working with Pine Cove shortly after he took the job at East Helena School District in Feb 2018.

"It is clear that Pine Cove isn't in business for a quick sale, they are in it to help organizations reach their long-term goals, and I really appreciate that."

Overview

Challenges

Technology coordinator at East Helena School District, DJ Howell was embarking on his first job in education-based IT after 13 years working IT in the health insurance industry. DJ was tasked with managing a growing district's technology which was making the change from a K-8 school district to K-12.

After meeting the team at Pine Cove Consulting, DJ knew the team could help him scale the current technology landscape to meet the growing district's needs. Pine Cove implemented a industry-leading firewall and continues to support the district.

Process

Pine Cove Consulting took a deep dive into the network to look at the district's traffic. Pine Cove worked with the district to determine what bandwidth would be needed in order to support the district now and in the future, as the district grows. "Had I tried to audit the network myself, I likely would have tried to undersize the solution needed rather than look deeper at what the needs of the school were" said East Helena Technology Coordinator, DJ Howell. "Pine Cove found the right solution at the right price point."

Solution

After Pine Cove analyzed the district's technology and capacity, Pine Cove first implemented an industry-leading Sophos XG Firewall. This firewall would help the district secure its information while also giving the district room to grow as it scales from a K-8 school district to a complete K-12 school district. The implementation of the firewall was the first solution implemented by Pine Cove.

The Story

New to education-based IT, DJ Howell started working with Pine Cove Consulting, and its 26+ years of IT experience working in school districts, to audit the district's technology landscape and identify potential bottlenecks as the district grows from a K-8 to a K-12 institution. Pine Cove and the district implemented solutions to help the district better serve its students including:

⊞ Firewall

Q IT Assessment

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C O N S U L T I N G

"It is absolutely worth the time and investment to work with Pine Cove Consulting. They do a great job of staying in contact without being pushy."

DJ Howell, IT Coordinator
East Helen a School District

Q&A with DJ

1 Q: How did you start working with Pine Cove Consulting?

A: Because I'm new to working with schools, I explored working with vendors I hadn't worked with in my previous health insurnace environment. I quickly heard about Pine Cove from other education-based IT workers as well as saw them present at a Montana Education Technology Association Conference. After these interactions, I definitely wanted to include Pine Cove in our next project. The Pine Cove process was great and its pricing was great.

2 Q: How has Pine Cove helped assist the District?

A: They have helped us by looking at scale with regards to the amount of traffic we receive, along with the number of students and staff using our technology. With Pine Cove, we did a deeper dive into the network and took a look not only at current technology use, but also projected future technology use as the district grows and transitions into a K-12 institution. If I had done this on my own, I very likely would have tried to undersize the solution we needed rather than starting with a deeper dive looking at the needs of the school, and then working back into the right solution.

3 Q: What would you say to someone thinking about working with Pine Cove?

A: It's absolutely worth your time to get to know Pine Cove Consulting and the vendors they work with. Pine Cove has a good balance of keeping in contact to let you know that they're there without being pushy. Pine Cove is always willing to help. It's clear Pine Cove is looking out for our organization's long term success, not a quick sale. So it's definitely worth the time and investment to get to know Pine Cove and see if there is a good fit.

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C O N S U L T I N G

We are dedicated to providing our clients the very best that technology has to offer. We personalize our services for each individual client by completing a comprehensive assessment.

Our Process

- Assess Current Technology
- Identify Improvements
- Review Technology Possibilities
- Implement Personalized Solution

Technical Background

- 30,056 Cyber-Attacks Stopped Daily
- 20,103 Users Currently Supported
- 2,527 WAPs Installed
- 2,008 Server Installs/Configs
- 35 Technical Certifications
- 26 Years of Experience

SOPHOS SECURITY AWARDS 2016 WINNER
Complete Security Partner of the Year
Pine Cove Consulting

SOPHOS SECURITY AWARDS 2017 WINNER
Q2 Partner of Quarter
Pine Cove Consulting

CHANNEL SECURITY AWARDS 2018 WINNER
Rising Security Star Award
Pine Cove Consulting

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Our Solutions

Cyber-Security   **Communication**   **Infrastructure**

Where We Work

We work with businesses, government agencies, and educational institutions across the rocky mountain region. We have employees stationed across the region ready to assess and address your technological needs.

- Client   ★ Pine Cove Employees/Office locations