

California State University, Northridge

Meeting the Needs of Higher Education

“WE WANTED AN INTEGRATED SOLUTION THAT COULD PROVIDE WEB-BASED EMAIL, CALENDARING, ANTI-VIRUS, CONTENT FILTERING, AND OTHER FEATURES IN ONE RELIABLE, EASY-TO-USE PACKAGE.”

David Sorkin, System Technical Manager for Cal State Northridge

CASE STUDY | EDUCATION

California State University **Northridge**

BUSINESS NEED

An integrated solution that could provide web-based email, calendaring, anti-virus, content filtering, and other features in one reliable, easy-to-use package

SOLUTION

Mirapoint Message Server and RazorGate Appliances

BOTTOM LINE

Mirapoint was the only vendor that offered all of the features CSUN needed

Background

Cal State Northridge, situated on a 353-acre campus in suburban Los Angeles, California, serves 28,000 students with a faculty and staff of more than 3300. Like many institutions, the university had deployed an email infrastructure a number of years ago. The legacy system consisted of a Silicon Graphics (SGI) server running a version of Sendmail.

With aging hardware and software and a steady increase in the number of users, the system no longer met the University's needs. The system administrator would need to reboot the system once or twice a day just to keep the application running, and mail delivery often took an hour. The poor service led some departments to deploy their own email systems on campus.

The Business Need

The University realized that it needed a new email system, and the requirements were clear. “We wanted an integrated solution that could provide web-based email, calendaring, anti-virus, content filtering, and other features in one reliable, easy-to-use package,” says David Sorkin, System Technical Manager for Cal State Northridge. The legacy system had relied on separate components with varying degrees of compatibility including Infinite for webmail, MeetingMaker for calendaring, and Trend Micro for anti-virus.

Sorkin also wanted class-of-service capabilities to meet the different needs of students, faculty, and alumni. Finally, the chosen solution had to be standards compliant to meet a campus-wide initiative.

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The Mirapoint Solution

After evaluating four systems, the University chose Mirapoint. “We didn’t find any solution that fit our needs like Mirapoint did,” says Sorkin. “Mirapoint allowed us to deliver all the services we wanted to provide on campus.”

Migration from the old system just prior to the 2002 fall semester took just ten days. Since deployment, complaints about slow mail delivery have virtually disappeared. Mail is delivered within two minutes or less. The integrated anti-virus software powered by Sophos has proved so effective that at least one independent email server on campus, the Engineering department, now routes its email through the Mirapoint system.

Through class of service, the University is offering one set of features for students and another for faculty and staff. Mirapoint also provides information that can be used to institute mail quotas for student users.

Reliability has been exceptional. “The only time the system has gone down is when we did something that caused an error,” says Sorkin. “In each case, the support staff at Mirapoint has been able to quickly determine what the problem was. We’ve had very good experiences with them.”

About Mirapoint

Mirapoint® is the market leader in appliance-based solutions for secure message networks in enterprise, service provider, and education organizations, with more than 100 million mailboxes served and secured worldwide. Customers use Mirapoint appliances including the Message Server mail appliance and RazorGate mail security appliance to build the messaging infrastructure that intelligently serves, secures and manages email. Mirapoint is headquartered in Sunnyvale, California, with offices throughout North America, Europe and Asia. For more information on Mirapoint, visit its Website at www.mirapoint.com.

Configuration

- One Mirapoint Message Server M400 Appliance
- One Mirapoint Message Server M4000 Appliance
- One Mirapoint RazorGate RG400 Appliance