Liberal Arts College Protects Dozens of Web Sites with Minimal Effort.

Growing concerns over the safety of sensitive information and web assets has prompted Pomona College to protect its infrastructure with Hermetric's *eduWAF*.

Pomona College is a thriving liberal arts college, one that brandishes exceptionally close ties among a diverse group of faculty, staff, and students. The ongoing drive to engage has brought a dramatic growth in online assets. From faculty web pages to student services, a good amount of these web sites have been developed in-house to meet the specific needs of the Pomona College community.

While these web services are a great value to the college, they raise concerns for the safety of student, faculty, and staff private information. There is also the perception that as these services increase in importance, they increasingly become targets for hackers and spammers.

Evaluating Hermetric's eduWAF

Hermetric's *eduWAF* is a next-generation web security solution that includes real-time protection, monthly data vulnerability reports, as well as oversight and review by security professionals. All this packaged in a platform that makes data center deployments quick and painless.

When evaluating Hermetric's *eduWAF*, CTO Ken Pflueger liked how the security checks can be in "audit mode", thus enabling review without worry of blocking legitimate traffic. Mr. Pflueger remarked that "**faculty doing research cannot be blocked.**"

At Pomona College, web sites may change without giving notice to central IT. Anthony Nguyen, the director of network services liked how Hermetric's security professionals review and monitor the security policy. "Our team is too busy for daily log reviews and security policy management."

After consulting with the IT team, Mr. Pflueger decided to give Hermetric's *eduWAF* a try.

CASE STUDY

CHALLENGES
- Real-Time defense from online hackers
- Data theft prevention
- Protection of over 20 web sites

SOLUTION
Hermetric's *eduWAF* was deployed as a front-line defense solution.

RESULTS
- Internet attacks (intruders, DOS, spammers) are blocked. Legitimate traffic gets through.
- Monthly reports that detail exposed data (SSN, CCN, passwords, etc.) and other vulnerabilities.
- Minimal staff requirements. A unique security policy is maintained for each web site by Hermetric's security professionals. Security updates & upgrades are deployed automatically without IT staff involvement.

Deploying Hermetic's eduWAF

Pat Flannery, the manager of network architecture, downloaded the virtual appliance and set it up as a reverse proxy within Pomona College's data center. All in all it took him about an hour; he observed that **_"it was super easy."_**

From that point on, Hermetic's security professionals analyzed the web traffic, and designed a unique security policy for each protected web site. Emphasizing the need to avoid false-positives, the security policies were developed gradually. Only after enough traffic went through to a particular host, a security policy would be created. As even more traffic went through, the security policies would be expanded and refined to ensure strong protection while allowing legitimate traffic through.

Real-Time Protection, Deployed Cautiously

Mr. Nguyen noted that "the ability to review the security policy for each host, and determine when to change the security mode from 'audit' to 'protected' **enabled me to proceed with confidence** and to gradually protect the web servers across the college. I could see in the security log that only illegitimate traffic would get blocked."

Monthly Data Exposure Reports

Going beyond real-time protection, Hermetic's monthly reports are a convenient means to identifying exposed information. Live traffic is continuously scanned for sensitive information, including social security numbers and passwords.

Mr. Flannery noted that "the monthly reports gave us significant insights that would otherwise have been difficult to uncover. One example is a web server that was handling passwords in clear-text. With so many different servers to watch over, this simple report is an immense help."

Ongoing Professional Monitoring

Hermetic's work is never done. Our security professionals continue to monitor and review the security policies for each host. New security measures and other software updates are automatically updated for our clients without any effort on their part.

Mr. Pflueger remarked: "we are very pleased with Hermetic's commitment to our security."

Hermetic offers an innovative new approach to securing web assets in higher education.

To learn more, visit hermetic.com.

"It was super easy!"

"With Confidence"

"Significant insights"