

Consolidated High School District 230

Statistics

- 8,300 Students
- Grades 9-12
- Three campuses located in Orlando Park, IL
- One-to-One Initiative adopted in 2012

“We started trying to figure out how we were going to be able to easily onboard our students...it was really a nightmare... Once we found [SecureW2’s] JoinNow, the lights went on. We were really impressed, and it works great for us”

– Marce Gonzalez
Operations Manager, Technology



Supporting BYOD

Consolidated High School District 230 (D230) serves more than 8,000 students grades 9 through 12 across three campuses in Orland Park, Illinois.

Marce Gonzalez, Operations Manager for the Technology department at D230, realized that allowing students simple and secure Wi-Fi access from their personally owned devices was becoming a pressing issue for the district.

“BYOD is growing and not going anywhere. In the past, our students were allowed to bring their personal laptop or other device to school, but were not allowed to connect to the network. We needed to change that,” Gonzalez says.

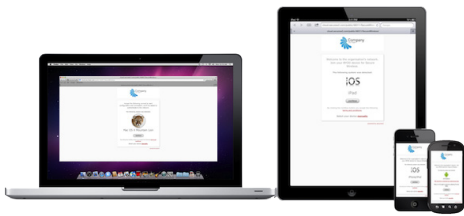
As web-based educational tools and materials have become the norm for K-12 districts, it has become increasingly important for students and staff members to be able to securely access these materials from their smartphones, tablets and laptop computers, as well as district owned one-to-one devices.

The Need for Security and Simplicity

The district had previously offered wireless to staff members using a pre-shared key. Despite best efforts, the wireless key quickly made its way to students, leading to unauthorized access and security issues.

“We would change the password on a Friday, and the students would have it on Monday,” Gonzalez says.

Moving forward, D230 decided that enforcing security standards such as encryption and individual user authentication were critical requirements for the



JoinNow MultiOS

Supported OSs	Windows XP + Mac OS X 10.5 + Apple iOS 2.0 + Android 2.1 + Linux Kindle Fire ChromeOS
Supported EAPs	EAP-TLS PEAP/MSCHAPv2 PEAP/GTC EAP-TTLS/PAP EAP-TTLS/MSCHAPv2 EAP-SIM
Deployment Options	Internal Web Server SecureW2 Cloud

revamped wireless network.

The decision was made to deploy secure wireless using WPA2-Enterprise and 802.1x, offering the highest level of security to students. The challenge, however, came from asking students to manually configure their devices to connect to the secure network. Because wireless access is so vital in the modern education environment, it was imperative that students be able to easily connect without sacrificing security. Adding to the challenge is the fact that students and staff demand access from a wide range of devices and operating systems, each requiring different steps for configuring and connecting to secure wireless.

“We didn’t know how we were going to manage this and keep things secure. We started trying to figure out how we were going to be able to easily onboard our students. It was really a nightmare to try and find a solution.”

Finding the Right Solution

D230 set out to find an affordable solution that would allow their students to quickly and securely access the WPA2-Enterprise network from their personal devices, without the need for lengthy configuration guides or requiring the service desk to touch each device.

“Once we found JoinNow, the lights went on. We were really impressed, and it works great for us,” Gonzalez says.

Today, when a student or staff member wants to connect to the WPA2-Enterprise network for the first time from their personal device, they are effortlessly directed to D230’s JoinNow deployment.

The user’s device and operating system is automatically detected. After entering their assigned username and password, the device is automatically and securely configured and connected to the WPA2-Enterprise network.

This one-time onboarding step removes the need for help desk intervention or frustrating manual configuration steps. Moving forward, the user is automatically connected to the secure wireless network.

JoinNow Delivers Results

Using JoinNow helps free up precious IT resources and countless man-hours that would otherwise be spent trying to help users connect or troubleshoot issues with the wireless network.

JoinNow removes the complexities of 802.1x and WPA2-Enterprise onboarding. By eliminating the need for manual device configuration, the burden is taken off of the user and the help desk, saving time and money.

“We were really worried about how much traffic getting people connected was going to generate for our tech staff. With JoinNow, it’s just really easy for them

“We were really worried about how much traffic getting people connected was going to generate for our tech staff. With [SecureW2’s] JoinNow, it’s just really easy for them to connect.”

to connect,” Gonzalez says.

Today, Gonzalez and D230 can rest assured that their students and staff members have the tools that they need to onboard their personal devices and be productive as possible.

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