Case Study

ThreatDown™
Powered by Malwarebytes

Protection So Effective and Simple, Students Can Manage Their Updates

Located in Alden, New York, Alden Central School District consists of four schools that serve students from kindergarten through 12th grade. Technology is a big part of the teaching environment, and the district provides each of its students (and staff, of course) with a device to support their curriculum and learning. Not only are students issued their own device, but they must also be responsible for it. Including the big ones like not losing or breaking it, students must also maintain system updates and ensure the endpoint protection is running and keeping the device secure.

However, using Symantec to safeguard the devices from malware, ransomware, and other threats wasn't making the grade. "Symantec just wasn't cutting it. We were getting a lot of malware and unwanted files all the time. It was becoming a big concern, so we wanted a better solution," said Frank Rizzo, Director of Instructional and Information Technology and Chief Information Officer for Alden Central School District.

> "It's important to have a pulse on what's going on with our endpoint security protection. Without that, we'd be operating blind. As a cloud-based solution, ThreatDown gives us that visibility. The data we get from the console gives us a lot of peace of mind."
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> **Frank Rizzo, Director of Instructional and Information Technology / CIO Alden Central Schools**

Reasons for Choosing ThreatDown, powered by Malwarebytes

During the time Rizzo was searching for a new endpoint security solution, he heard the unfortunate news about a medical facility that had been hit by a ransomware attack. Undoubtedly, this put strong ransomware protection at the top of the district's requirements for a new vendor selection.

Partner-at-a-glance

Customer - Alden Central Schools
Industry - Education
Country - United States
Displaced Solution - Symantec

ThreatDown Solutions

ThreatDown EP
(Endpoint Protection + Servers)

Pain Points

- Inadequate threat detection was exposing student and staff devices to malware and other threats
- Looming risk of a ransomware attack was becoming a growing concern
- Missing visibility into endpoint protection made it impossible to proactively manage security issues

As fate would have it, Rizzo had the fortuitous opportunity to chat about the attack with an IT person from the medical facility. He learned an important data point: the ransomware attack was only successfully stopped on the machines that had ThreatDown installed.

“Talking with someone who was in the trenches of remediating a ransomware attack and learning the only machines not impacted were those running ThreatDown…you cannot pay for a better testimonial. That was a big endorsement for us to choose ThreatDown,” said Rizzo.

1. **Powerful ransomware protection that was validated for Rizzo by a “real world” use case**
2. **Strong brand reputation with a trusted solution for the school’s endpoint security needs**
3. **Simple cloud-based solution that is easy for both the IT staff and students to maintain**

Results

- **Peace of Mind:** That ThreatDown provides strong protection against endpoint threats
- **Comprehensive Visibility:** Into the security status of student machines—whether the machines are on or off campus
- **Ease of Use:** With a simple solution that provides a great user experience for the IT Team, as well as the students

How ThreatDown, powered by Malwarebytes Solved the Problem

Since rolling out ThreatDown, Rizzo and the IT Team have gained peace of mind that the district’s devices are protected. “We’ve seen ThreatDown stop some really harmful stuff, and it has also proven its defenses against ransomware. It successfully stopped an attack on a user’s device,” said Rizzo. As a cloud-based solution, it’s easy for the IT Team to see the security status for every device—even if students are using their device at home.

Beyond the powerful protection and simple management, the added bonus is that ThreatDown is easy enough for the students to manage. “We want our students to have ownership of their own technology. They need to keep their machines up to date, run their Windows updates, and take care of the ThreatDown updates. This is a life skill they need to know, and ThreatDown makes that really easy for the students to learn and manage,” said Rizzo.

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