ThreatDown
Powered by Malwarebytes

Case Study

ICT North Picks ThreatDown as a Lightweight Solution

Perfect for protecting schools

Founded in November 2005, ICT North was created to help schools at a time when they were beginning to integrate technology into all aspects of teaching and needed to manage servers and IT suites for the first time.

Since then, ICT North has made its name by adapting to the needs of schools as the technology stacks they relied upon became even more complex, and more distinct from the needs of businesses.

> "An IT person who specializes in business won't know anything about Google Classroom, the Microsoft ecosystem for schools, or safeguarding pupils. If your MSP doesn't have a background in education they aren't going to give you the best advice."
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> **Simon Bough, Founder**
> **ICT North**

Partner-At-A-Glance

Customer – ICT North
Endpoints – 1,300
Industry – Education MSP
Solutions – EDR, EDRS

Results

An effective endpoint solution that MSPs can be confident is uniquely suited to the needs of schools.

The primary concern for anyone involved with schools is creating a safe and secure environment for pupils and staff, and in IT that means protecting them from the threat of global ransomware gangs that specifically target education.

There is no doubt in Bough's mind that the best choice for endpoint security for schools is ThreatDown. "Schools have bought into lots of different products over the years, ESET, McAfee, Sophos, and I haven't been impressed," says Bough. "ThreatDown offers a much more lightweight solution—that's been key from a technical point of view."

Proven protection

ThreatDown bundles are Malwarebytes' business-tailored cybersecurity solutions designed for the needs of modern MSPs like ICT North.

The beating heart of every ThreatDown bundle is Malwarebytes' renowned protection technology. Like many IT administrators, Simon Bough came to know Malwarebytes as a tool that could catch threats that other tools missed—including whatever better-known antivirus was supposed to be protecting the computers he was working on.

“I’ve actually sat and watched an endpoint get infected while the fully up to date endpoint security software did nothing, and I’ve run a scan with Malwarebytes, and it’s cleaned it up. That speaks volumes,” says Bough.

He describes the Malwarebytes protection technology as “a lifeline for IT people,” and learned to trust it when all else failed, “When we’ve been on to a machine that’s been infected, Malwarebytes has gone before us. We were shielded by Malwarebytes as we investigated.”

ICT North is excited to introduce ThreatDown’s modern, ransomware-specific protections to schools as well. “Ransomware rollback is one that we mention a lot when we talk to schools,” says Bough. “It’s one of the features that really appealed to us having gone into environments that have been attacked—when we talked about it, it’s a case of, ‘wouldn’t that have been great.’”

Light enough for schools

ThreatDown bundles deliver the Malwarebytes protection trusted by experts like Bough in a lightweight, easy-to-use, and easy to deploy solution that comes with unparalleled, MSP-focused support. While some vendors have a reputation for leaving customers in the lurch, the ThreatDown Partner Success Team offers quarterly security reviews, dedicated to ensuring their clients’ ThreatDown solutions are configured optimally. “Having those meetings has been extremely valuable,” says Bough, “It’s like having another set of eyes with greater knowledge in that area.”

But it’s ThreatDown’s lightweight agent that makes ICT North believe it’s an ideal solution for MSPs working in the education sector.

Budget constraints mean that schools often hold on to computers longer than businesses do, and their older, less powerful machines need endpoint security that delivers effective protection without hogging resources.

> “The biggest thing that puts me off Sophos is they’re a heavyweight solution in terms of the load they put on computers. A week after we rolled it out, all our systems were unusable – all it was doing was running scans constantly. The overhead was greater than the threat.”
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> **Simon Bough, Founder**
> **ICT North**

ThreatDown has no such issue, says Bough, “With ThreatDown, I’m confident the solution won’t affect performance.”

Schools looking to make the most of their IT budgets are increasingly turning to Google’s ChromeOS, either on dedicated Chromebook computers, or old Windows hardware using ChromeOS Flex. Here again, ThreatDown’s lightweight agent and support for ChromeOS make it the go-to solution for securing education endpoints.

“Schools get two or three times the amount of hardware if they go with Chromebooks rather than Windows, so ThreatDown’s ability to deploy to Chromebooks is a big one for schools.”