NETSHIELD™

Boston Healthcare for the Homeless Program
NETSHIELD enforces security; deployed in half a day

Boston Health Care program enforces network access control security with NETSHIELD

Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program

Website: www.bhchp.org
Number of sites: 80
Location: Boston, MA
Solution: Network Access Control

NETSHIELD Benefits:
• Provides BHCHP with control over their network
• Agentless architecture means fewer headaches for the IT staff
• Helps BHCHP stay ahead of outside threats
• Deploys quickly and does what it's supposed to do without any hassle
• No need for forklift changes to infrastructure means a big cost savings for BHCHP

"The [NetSHIELD] appliance works exactly as advertised— this is as 'set it and forget it' as it comes...[it] was absolutely painless to install."

Lee Cowgill, BHCHP
Technology Infrastructure Manager

Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program (BHCHP) is a large non-profit healthcare facility in Boston. It has more than 80 sites in the Boston area and offers a wide range of health services to indigent patients. BHCHP's funding comes primarily through Medicaid reimbursements with the remainder being a mix of federal and state grants and philanthropy. The organization serves more than 12,000 homeless men, women, and children each year.

BHCHP employs about 300 people and its main location in Boston, Massachusetts houses a 104-bed 24/7 medical respite facility, a walk-in clinic, a pharmacy, a dental clinic, and administrative offices. There is continuous traffic of workers and patients coming in and out of the building, it is crucial for both security and compliance purposes that network access to sensitive resources is kept under control.

To solve this issue and ensure only the appropriate devices are accessing the network, Lee Cowgill, BHCHP's Technology Infrastructure Manager, began the search for a network access control solution. Lee, who has been with the program for almost 14 years, helped build the network infrastructure of this particular location when they moved into this building four years ago. Although BHCHP as a whole grew by 50% in staff, Lee's IT resources stayed the same — which meant he was continuously having to innovate to do more with less, a common theme among IT professionals.

Aside from finding solutions that do not take up valuable IT resources and time, nonprofits must also find solutions that are priced within their limited budgets. When evaluating solutions, Lee considered other wireless and wired infrastructure companies that offered access control. However, all of the other solutions he looked into required a forklift overhaul of the network infrastructure — a task Lee did not want to undertake due to the time and estimated $250,000 it would require to replace all of the existing technologies.

Lee needed a Network Access Control (NAC) solution that was simple to deploy and maintain, did not require any infrastructure changes, and simply did what he needed it to do; that is, limit access to authorized devices to his corporate network. Lee ultimately selected NETSHIELD to monitor approximately 1,000 trusted assets on his corporate network. The deployment of NETSHIELD was done in a matter of hours: "Deployment and installation were absolutely painless. I heard many horror stories about implementing a NAC solution — but that couldn't be farther from the truth with NETSHIELD appliance"

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Lee also mentioned how seamless NETSHIELD has worked within his network. After building a trust list of the corporate-owned devices, he has set all rogue and untrusted devices to be blocked automatically from his network, which has been a true benefit in assisting with the Bring-Your-Own-Device (BYOD) trend that is growing. "Rogue employee devices have shown up on the untrusted asset list and are automatically blocked. This helps us enforce the policies we have put in place."

Another benefit of NETSHIELD for BHCHP was that it assisted in an audit on the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) security policy surrounding "Meaningful Use." This policy outlines specific requirements or rules that must be met around controlling access to sensitive client health information through the implementation of appropriate technical capabilities. Lee states that having a Network Access Control solution in place was helpful in proving the BHCHP was enforcing the stringent polices they adopted for access control.

Overall, Lee is "thrilled with this product." NETSHIELD is the plug-and-play model he has been searching for in order to have full control over who and what is accessing the network. The fully automated and independent blocking ability has secured the network without agents or the need to interfere with existing network equipment. In other words, the BHCHP saved IT time and resources but improved the overall security posture of the network. According to Lee: "This is what access control is supposed to be like."

> "Rogue devices have shown up on the [NETSHIELD*] interface and are automatically blocked. This is what access control is supposed to be like."
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> Lee Cowgill, BHCHP
> Technology Infrastructure Manager

About NETSHIELD Corporation

NETSHIELD's Mission is to be a trusted provider of cost effective, proactive security solutions to enhance organizations cyber-risk mitigation strategies.

NETSHIELD delivers critical network access control to ensure only trusted assets access corporate networks. Additionally, zero-day malware and phishing attack real-time quarantine, mac-spoof detection, TLD blocking, comprehensive auditing, vulnerability assessments, and compliance reporting & enforcement make this a comprehensive and compelling offering. NetSHIELD is available as a hardware appliance that scale from 25 to 10,000 protected assets per appliance. In addition, an embedded command center allows administrators to manage up to 1000 remote sites.