A revolution is sweeping the educational sector. Technology is now being woven into the very fabric of pedagogy, transforming how it is organized, delivered, and experienced by students and teachers alike. A technology-rich classroom can spur active engagement, improve collaboration among students and teachers, enable frequent and accurate feedback, and provide a connection to real-world experts. The potential and hoped for result of these advances is a learning environment that empowers students and educators with the tools they need to succeed.

However, before they can reap these tantalizing benefits, schools must evolve their network infrastructures. Individualized, contextualized, and adaptive learning leverages university and student data—immense and growing amounts of data that must be managed and secured. From protecting student and school information to providing network access control and a secure approach to distance learning, education IT's challenges are endless. And these challenges must be met amid shrinking budgets and increasing pressures to improve student performance.

Symantec continues to develop a deep understanding of what is important to schools—primarily, to have one comprehensive approach to security needs. Our solutions enable education IT to provide a secure e-Learning environment for physical, virtual, and cloud platforms; safely manage confidential data and other digital content; protect against endpoint, mail and Web threats; and automate the deployment, security and management of all devices—all through a single central management platform.

AUTOMATED RISK MANAGEMENT AND COMPLIANCE

Education institutions must comply with federal, state, and institutional regulations to protect themselves, their staff, and their students from data breaches that would jeopardize the privacy of legally protected information. Yet, according to a recent study, only 10 percent of responding institutions reported very effective IT governance programs, and 61 percent reported having an ineffective or only somewhat effective IT governance program.[1]

Symantec's solutions allow education IT to automate compliance processes, secure PII, protect privacy, and meet required regulations, including FERPA (Family Educational and Privacy Rights); HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act); COPPA (Children's Online Privacy Protection Act and Rule); PCI DSS (Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard), and Criminal Justice Information Services Security Policy (CJIS), as well as state, city, and county regulations and internal and external audits. To ensure the institution does not forfeit its federal funding through the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HDOA), copyrighted information must also be protected by guidelines dictating, for example, whether digital content such as graphics can be copied for use in other programs without violating licensing terms.

CYBER SECURITY AND SECURE INFORMATION ACCESS

Managing access is a pressing challenge for education, especially higher education. In the e-Learning environment, students expect to be able to log on from any device to complete homework or access courses—and they trust they are protected while doing so. The challenge for IT is to encourage and enable an open and collaborative environment that is also secure. IT must ensure information and services are accessible to the right people—those with the proper credentials—while simultaneously providing a consistently good experience for campus users.

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1   Educause Review, November/December 2013

IT is also responsible for protecting the network against malware and securing the integrity of the institute's systems, even in the cloud. Increasingly sophisticated Advanced Persistent Threats (APTs) are continuously threatening to steal students' identities and other critical information. To protect against incursions, advanced security tools that detect and block stealthy and continuous hacking processes before they present a significant risk to the network are needed.

Symantec solutions helps education IT comply with industry best practices and standards, discover vulnerabilities, block malware, stop botnets, encrypt email, hard drives, and removable storage devices, and correlate security events across the enterprise.

DATA CENTER OPTIMIZATION

Education institutions are adopting the cloud in droves, moving data and programs from local servers to the Internet and providing users with the ability to access and share information at any time, from multiple devices. They are also leveraging the cloud for services, such as infrastructure, applications, and platforms, making IT more flexible, responsive, and cost-effective. With this transition, however, comes the challenge of providing reliable and ready access to content and collaboration tools hosted in the cloud. In today's 24x7 learning environment, school services, learning, and proprietary applications must be made highly available to students, staff, and parents.

Information governance is also a high priority. Education IT must at all times be able to discover, monitor, protect, and manage student and institutional data wherever it is stored or used. In addition, they must establish policies for the proper use of said data. Sometimes specific data needs to be located quickly in order to respond to media, public (Freedom of Information Act), and legal requests. In addition, sensitive information must be blocked from leaving school systems or devices.

To meet these challenges, education IT must implement the appropriate technologies to secure the data center and the information that resides there. Symantec solutions standardize and automate data center management across distributed infrastructures, optimize storage utilization across platforms and operating systems, and centralize and standardize backups across platforms and locations.

SUMMARY

Education is undergoing a radical transformation. The arrival of technology in the classroom holds the promise of profound benefits to students, teachers, and administrators. However, these changes come with specific and unique challenges. To meet these challenges, schools need one comprehensive approach to security. Symantec solutions enable education IT to provide a secure e-Learning environment for physical, virtual, and cloud platforms; safely manage confidential data and other digital content; protect against endpoint, mail and Web threats; and automate the deployment, security and management of all devices—so schools can focus on what they do best: preparing students for lives of success.

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About Symantec
Symantec Corporation (NASDAQ: SYMC) is an information protection expert that helps people, businesses, and governments seeking the freedom to unlock the opportunities technology brings—anytime, anywhere. Founded in April 1982, Symantec, a Fortune 500 company operating one of the largest global data intelligence networks, has provided leading security, backup, and availability solutions for where vital information is stored, accessed, and shared. The company's more than 20,000 employees reside in more than 50 countries. Ninety-nine percent of Fortune 500 companies are Symantec customers. In fiscal 2014, it recorded revenue of $6.7 billion. To learn more go to *www.symantec.com* or connect with Symantec at: *go.symantec.com/socialmedia*.

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