

CASE STUDY Saint John Vianney High School Implements Best-of-Breed Email and Archiving

OVERVIEW

Saint John Vianney High School is a private, Catholic institution based in Holmdel, NJ, with over 1,000 students and a combined staff of approximately 100 teachers, administrators, and support personnel. School facilities are the finest in Monmouth County with 38 acres of developed land that includes athletic fields, a “turf” stadium field, two gyms and a weight training facility that support more than 25 varsity sports. A new heating and air conditioning system provides a climate-controlled environment. Saint John Vianney is a one-to-one Tablet PC school where technology is key to education and communication. A ParentPortal allows parents/guardians to go online to see their child’s real-time progression in each class. Over 99% of graduates go on to college and attend many of the most prestigious colleges and universities.

THE CHALLENGE

Several years ago, Saint John Vianney Network Administrator Tom McKenna moved the school’s email system to Gmail, which Google provides for free to schools and universities as part of its Google Apps for Education offering. Since Gmail is a hosted service, Saint John Vianney was spared the expense and hassle of installing and managing a mail server. It provides all Saint John Vianney’s staff with 7.3 + GBs of storage, built-in IM, voice and video chat, mobile access, spam and virus protection, IMAP, POP.

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While Gmail’s generous free storage provision ensured that Saint John Vianney didn’t have to worry about overflowing mailboxes, it did not include a hosted archiving service that would meet the school’s seven-year email retention policy. McKenna’s next step was to find and

install an affordable email archiving system that would complement the school’s new Gmail system.

THE SOLUTIONS

McKenna explored several hosted solutions recommended by Gmail and selected Sonian’s Cloud-powered email archiving and ediscovery service largely based on cost. When measured against hosted email and archiving suites, the combination of Gmail and Sonian was

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**– Network Administrator,
Tom McKenna**

still less expensive. “As far as I’m concerned, Saint John Vianney has a best-of-breed solution with the combined Gmail and Sonian services,” says McKenna. “Their SLAs mean they worry about the data by providing capabilities that we could never afford, such as redundancy, multiple data center backups, climate controlled data centers, etc. All at a fair price.”

THE BENEFITS

Saint John Vianney licensed Sonian email archiving and ediscovery in late summer 2008 and renewed the service in 2009. Although he had 140 mail boxes to move onto Sonian, McKenna was able to take advantage of Gmail’s option to configure and sort mail to another box and transition everyone onto the new system in 30 minutes. “I set Sonian up lickety-split; set it and forget it,” McKenna says. “Gmail does make it easy to flip between accounts, but Sonian also is easy to configure and get up and running.”

Sonian is the trusted cloud-powered universal data management company, which delivers archiving/storage, eDiscovery and compliance services. Global organizations rely on Sonian for its affordability, security, ease of deployment and use. Founded in 2006, Sonian supports thousands of customers on all major enterprise collaboration solutions including Exchange, Notes, GroupWise, Zimbra and others; and enjoys strategic partnerships with industry leaders Amazon Web Services, Rackspace, Axway and IBM.

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Because Sonian archives all emails in real time into the Cloud's infinite storage capacity, and Gmail is a hosted service too, McKenna has not imposed any particular retention policies for teachers and administrators. If someone does need to retrieve an email, McKenna easily accesses Sonian via the service's Web URL and pulls it down for them. Overall, Saint John Vianney has experienced the following benefits from its combined Gmail/Sonian applications:

- Best-of-breed email and archiving solutions
- Most affordable service pricing and no required hardware or software investment
- Quick and easy implementation
- SLA-based security and reliability
- Set-it and forget-it email retention compliance
- Unlimited storage