



VIT strengthens its security posture with Cisco security solutions

Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) is a prestigious academic institution with a current student count of over 26,000 and more than 1,400 teaching and non-teaching staff.

It was established with the aim of providing quality higher education, on par with international standards. It persistently seeks and adopts innovative methods to improve the quality of higher education on a consistent basis.

The campus is spread across a vast area of 450 acres. Fully furnished classrooms and well-equipped labs decorate every building in the university with over 100 servers and 300 plus Virtual Machines to manage all the data transmissions. It has smart classrooms and galleries which are often used for seminars and events from time to time. The university has recently built a state of art modular, energy efficient and smart data centre with 12 smart racks.

The challenge:
Vast network. Weak security.

The challenge this institution was facing was it had no visibility of its vast and complex network. This put the institution and its valuable data at a constant threat of being attacked. VIT needed to handle this situation quickly and without causing trouble to existing users or loss of data. The university has recently built a state of art modular, energy efficient and smart data centre with 12 smart racks.



A glimpse of the network:

- People using the VIT network: 30,000
- Logins to the network: 4,000
- IP-enabled devices/systems: 8,000+
- Laptops/desktops: 2,500+
- Personal devices connected: 2,500+

Being an institution of international repute, VIT welcomed hundreds of visitors every day. And most of them used their devices to connect to the common network. Unstructured networks and a lack of network management system meant that there was no way to monitor or manage the devices. And other endpoints in the network were under constant threat of malware and bot attacks. This unreliable infrastructure not only contained external threats, but internal threats too.

The immediate need of the hour was a robust, reliable and a secure network infrastructure.

For maximum safety, there is Cisco Security

As a market leader in the networking domain, Cisco had everything VIT needed to revamp its network security - quality products, reliable solutions, great technical support and easy documentation too.

Some solutions from the Cisco Security portfolio that were used for this undertaking were:

- Cisco Umbrella
- Cisco ISE

The transformation

The first step was to create a security check at the DNS layers to protect the network from cybersecurity threats over ports and protocol. Cisco Umbrella strong security parameters ensured that the malicious websites never accessed by the endpoints.

- Cisco Umbrella prevents viruses and access of malware sites by the users, which reduced burden on IT department in troubleshooting each and every endpoint whenever the problem arised. Instances of phishing mails and fake URLs access have reduced considerably.
- Cisco Umbrella Roaming on laptops helps keep the devices secure even when they are outside the VIT secure network.
- Data in faculty laptops is now completely secure.
- Cisco Umbrella is an easily deployable tool with a simple dashboard.

Cisco ISE helped in streamlining security policy management. With Cisco ISE, VIT IT team can now see users and control device access across wired, wireless, and VPN connections to their corporate network.



Other benefits:

- IT troubleshooting calls have reduced considerably. IT department is now able to devote more time on new project implementations.
- Adding new ISPs and generating reports have become very easy. This cloud-based security solution automates configuration and saves time for the IT team.
- The internal and local web pages of VIT are also now secure.
- Reduced operating costs.



Into the future, without a threat

The VIT network is now structured and secure. With no valuable resources and time spent on fighting threats, there is improved efficiency and productivity of the technical team. And with everyone at VIT feeling safe and secure again, Cisco Security ensured customer satisfaction with cutting-edge but cost-effective solutions.



“We were looking for robust, agile, scalable and easily manageable solution for our complex and large network. Cisco was able to meet all our expectations. We believe and trust our leaders capabilities. Cisco is the leader in the IT networking & security space.”



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