Enabling end-to-end visibility, context, and threat remediation across campus and beyond

Founded in 1769, Dartmouth is an Ivy League college and one of the oldest universities in the U.S. Located in Hanover, New Hampshire, Dartmouth comprises 4,500 undergraduate and 2,200 graduate students and supports more than 40 academic departments and programs across the arts and the sciences. Dartmouth is recognized as a leading research college and has been designated "R1" by the Carnegie Commission on Higher Education in recognition of this achievement.

How does an Ivy League college align security policies with a diverse set of user needs and enable distributed working for all?

Dartmouth faced a network security challenge that's particular to higher education. Sean McNamara, Chief Information Security Officer at Dartmouth, explains: "We're tasked with setting security policies that align with the needs of three groups: students, faculty, and administrative staff. That means securing everything from a multimillion-dollar microscope to a student's Xbox and beyond. We must make sure that our policies deliver the right user experience for each group and enable them to succeed."

By accelerating the move to hybrid working, the COVID-19 pandemic has added another challenge. "Our populations are no longer always within the network perimeter," says McNamara. "So, we need to extend our protective capabilities to individual devices to ensure that students, faculty, and staff can work wherever they need to. Distributed working also means that cloud applications are becoming common, and we need to be able to extend visibility and control to these environments."

Given these challenges, Dartmouth found itself experiencing technology sprawl, with countless point solutions introduced to solve specific requirements. Felix Windt, Chief Technology Officer at Dartmouth, comments: "We were looking for something capable of making central decisions and orchestrating enforcement actions across the board. Importantly, the solution could not impact the network performance— the user experience is a top priority."

DARTMOUTH

Profile

Industry	Region	Students
Higher Education	United States	6,700

Click here to visit the Dartmouth website

Challenges
- Manage a wide range of devices from diverse user groups
- Enable the secure move to distributed working
- Orchestrate and control a variety of security tools

Solutions
- Netskope IoT Security

Results
- Centralized orchestration of security policies
- Unlocked full capabilities of security infrastructure
- Significant time and cost savings from simplified processes

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>
> –Sean McNamara, Chief Information Security Officer, Dartmouth

netskope

Security that's ready for anything

Enabling end-to-end network visibility and context and threat remediation

In 2021, Dartmouth selected what is now the Netskope IoT Security solution to solve its challenges. The solution provides the college with a central platform to orchestrate and manage its security systems. Windt explains: "We will always need a lot of different tools to meet the various needs of our constituents. Netskope enables us to centralize our security policies and decision making, as well as configure and use the various enforcement tools we need."

The Netskope IoT Security solution analyzes hundreds of parameters from the devices on Dartmouth's network to generate rich contextual intelligence for device classification, risk assessment, granular access control and network segmentation, facilitating next-level security for its devices.

"Netskope acts like a traffic director," adds McNamara. "The solution sits in front of our devices and allows us to microsegment our users and make on-the-fly access control decisions based on a person's identity as well as their normal patterns of usage and device hygiene characteristics."

Dartmouth views this initial Netskope deployment as just the start of the journey. As McNamara puts it: "We're looking to Netskope as a strategic partner to help us better understand the technology and cybersecurity space and together build solutions that will really shift the dial on our security capabilities."

> "Netskope allows us to pull in intelligence from various sources and synthesize it into something that's meaningful, right down to the actions we should take."

–Sean McNamara, Chief Information Security Officer, Dartmouth

The highest level of device security, network visibility and analytics

Enabled by Netskope, Dartmouth can manage its security infrastructure more effectively, thereby enhancing its security posture. "Netskope allows us to pull in intelligence from various sources and synthesize it into something that's meaningful, right down to the actions we should take," says McNamara. "This approach is perfect for our distributed model as it provides a holistic view of our network and enables us to make policy decisions that are identity, behavior, and risk aware."

The approach also has a significant cost implication, as it helps Dartmouth realize full value from its investments. Windt explains: "The solution acts as an API hub that allows us to unlock the functionality of our systems. For instance, when students moved rooms, we would in the past have to deal with tickets requesting public IP addresses to use for gaming. With Netskope, we can simply declassify gaming systems for that group. That means students can just plug in their consoles and start playing. In fact, right across all our groups, Netskope has improved the overall network experience."

Arguably the most important impact of Netskope's solution has been in helping Dartmouth's IT team fulfil the college's goal of providing the highest levels of teaching and research. As Windt explains: "Dartmouth's core mission is to find the brightest people in this world and educate them so they can make a difference. Our role is to provide solutions that enable students to work effectively and teachers to provide the best experiences. Netskope is helping achieve that aim by creating a secure network that is also highly performant."