

CASE STUDY INDIAN PRAIRIE SCHOOL DISTRICT 204

Indian Prairie School District 204 is the fourth largest in the state of Illinois (USA), representing 33 schools, with over 33,000 individuals (students and faculty) depending on bandwidth and reliable Internet access to perform daily tasks and operations. The school district operates on an annual budget of \$309 million.



Summary

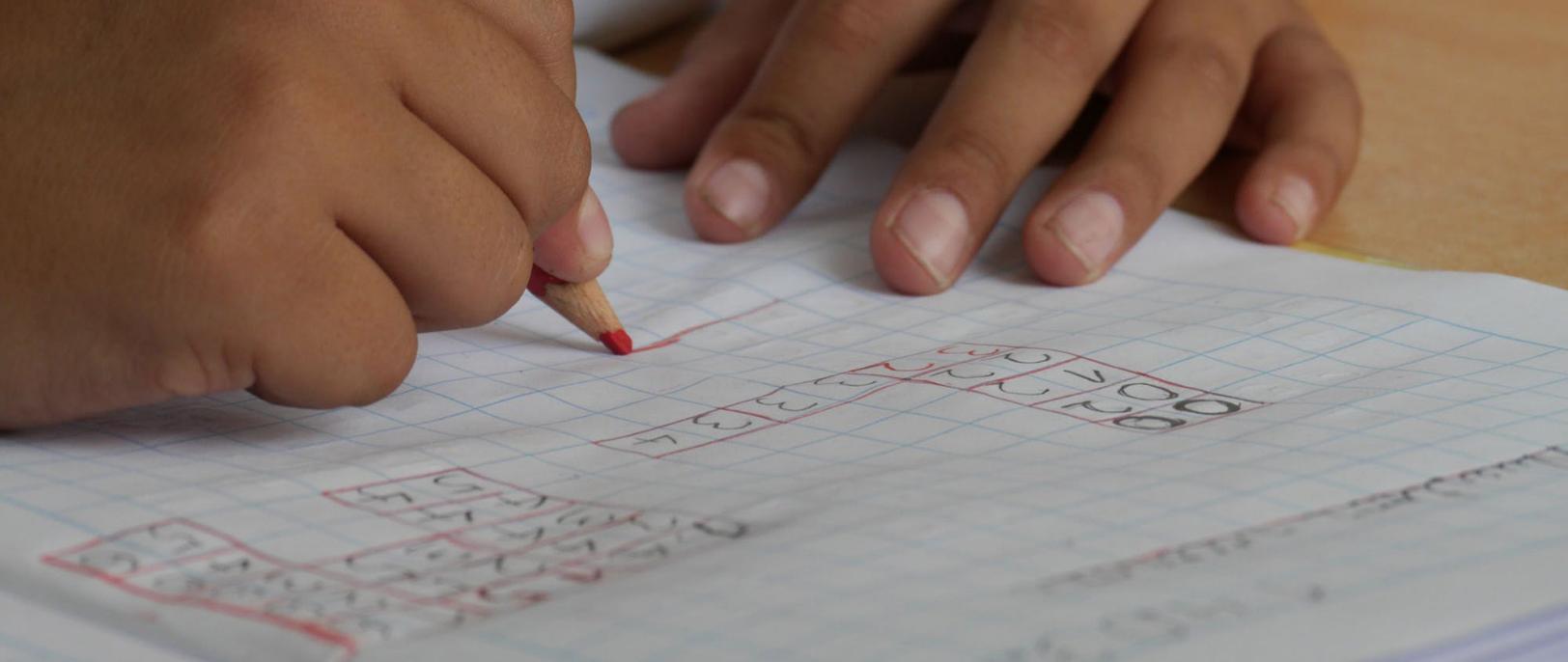
- The organization sought a solution to aggregate over 1Gbps of bandwidth from multiple ISPs for future needs
- Martello's Link Balancer was selected for its ability to meet current and future requirements
- The second ISP was optimized to supplement the primary link to deliver better overall performance
- Downtime no longer affects users and help desk calls diminished, delivering an almost immediate return on investment

Challenge

The school district is highly dependent on Internet connectivity for multiple reasons (student Internet access, faculty Internet access, online services and e-learning) and cannot afford downtime. Additionally the demand for bandwidth is growing constantly, causing a long-term capacity issue as online services are now commonplace in the education sector.

In this context, faculty members were placing help desk calls to communicate Internet-related issues (uptime, performance), which became time-consuming for the IT department.

The existing solution was no longer meeting their needs and it became difficult to manage. Growth planning was paramount for this next evolution of the school district's Internet access strategy. Given this context, a decision was made to look for an alternative solution.



Solution

Indian Prairie School District 204 opted to collaborate with Martello Technologies. In this project, Martello's Link Balancer was the only product which satisfied their list of criteria: throughput capacity for planned bandwidth growth, excellent technical support, ease of management and reporting.

The networking group at the school district worked with Martello's team to define and implement bandwidth management policies which reflected their expectations.

The product was deployed within 10 minutes of planned downtime due to Martello's innovative Layer-2 implementation methodology. Martello's LAN Failsafe technology is also used to guarantee connectivity, even if the device were to lose power.

Benefits

Once the device was deployed, the implemented bandwidth started to be used by its users and services, thus eliminating bottlenecks and potential downtime, increasing the organization's productivity and eliminating help desk calls.

Integration downtime lasted under 10 minutes, preventing any user or system issues.

The school district currently operates two LBX5500 devices, which will meet the future requirement to deploy over 1Gbps of aggregated bandwidth.

The network management team now has devices which are much easier to operate and can obtain detailed information from them, enhancing their ability to communicate results internally.

"[Martello] walked us through concepts, architecture, and they even helped us set up our new appliance. When the cutover date came, we literally had less than 10 minutes of down time."

Kent Vanderploeg

Founded in 2009, Martello Technologies is headquartered in Ottawa, Canada with staff in Canada, the Netherlands, the United States and France. We offer solutions that deliver confidence in the performance of real-time services on cloud and enterprise networks. Our products include unified communications (UC) performance management software, IT systems visualization software and SD-WAN technology.