



The Need...

The Missouri Research and Education Network (MOREnet) provides Internet connectivity, access to Internet2, technical support, videoconferencing services and training to Missouri's K-12 schools, colleges and universities, public libraries, health care, state government and other affiliated organizations.

MOREnet's K-12 Technology Network Program (K-12 TNP), sponsored by Missouri's Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), seeks to improve student performance and enhance teaching and learning through the effective use of technology in the classroom. MOREnet's K-12 TNP brings Internet connectivity, technical support, online resources, training and other services into Missouri's classrooms.

As part of its mandate to provide high quality solutions and safe technology, MOREnet required a filtering solution that would protect students and library patrons online and meet CIPA requirements. However, based on an extensive requirements gathering process, MOREnet also required a solution that would deliver additional beneficial features:

- A solution that could be deployed and centrally hosted at MOREnet or within a Member's own network.
- Flexible administration controls that would enable IT managers to delegate system administration rights and create multiple levels of access. This would allow different groups of users to be filtered by different policies. For example, students in the 5th grade would have different Internet access levels compared to an 11th grade student.
- High throughput performance to manage the users of over 3,000 sites across the state at any one time.

More than a dozen leading filtering vendors were invited to submit proposals and meet the performance standards set out by MOREnet. Considered solutions were rigorously tested for integration capabilities, scalability, administrative capabilities, accuracy, performance, and the ability to customize the solution.

The Solution...

Netsweeper's ability to integrate into the MORENET 3.6 GB network was a key ingredient to meeting their criteria for a filtering solution. In addition, Netsweeper's delegated administration architecture became particularly appealing to MOREnet. This enables IT-intensive tasks to be completed by the professionals at MOREnet's operations center, while allowing administrative tasks to be accessed and completed by individual schools and libraries. After several months of due diligence testing and examining integration capabilities, MOREnet selected Netsweeper as its partner.

Netsweeper responded to MOREnet with a solution that addressed all of the customer's requirements and provided a rock-solid platform for content filtering to a growing student base. The Netsweeper system was deployed in the core of the network and will scale to manage more than 14,000 requests per second. The solution allows IT managers at the school level to manage the filtering policies for each of their respective schools. With an almost non-existent "false positive" rate and 99.999% server uptime, Missouri schools have attained and deployed an advanced and functionally robust filtering solution that is easy to use through a web-based interface.





About Netsweeper Inc.

Netsweeper Inc. develops intelligent web content filtering solutions that are designed specifically for the IT managers of education networks. Deployed in the core network or on individual workstations, Netsweeper technologies will empower IT authorities to control and manage all Internet access at a district, school, class or even student level.

True ROI: Netsweeper provides educational organizations with reliable and accurate filtering solutions that are CIPA compliant. Netsweeper solutions are cost effective and the risk of legal liability of schools boards, districts and schools while keeping the Internet experience of students safe and productive.

Immense Flexibility: Netsweeper filtering solutions allow for multiple deployment scenarios and are flexible to accommodate the needs of educational environments. From network-based filtering to downloadable client versions on student mobile laptops, Netsweeper will monitor, filter and block Internet access as required.

Unparalleled Speed and Accuracy: Netsweeper Filtering utilizes advanced AI systems that actively scan the Internet and categorize pages on the fly as Internet users request them. Netsweeper has also perfected the ability to identify anonymous proxies to ensure access policies are not compromised.

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The Outcome...

The first phase of the deployment was completed on-time and on-budget in May, 2009. The MOREnet / Netsweeper agreement is a 5-year contract. It has proven to maintain a high level of performance, scalability, and accuracy. Missouri schools and libraries have been equipped with a premium solution that provides maximum protection to the students/public patrons in the MOREnet network and educational system and reduces legal liabilities for all of the various schools. Netsweeper is easily able to grow to accommodate the increasing student population in the network, a testament to Netsweeper inherent scalability. With the customization capabilities of the Netsweeper educational solution, MOREnet was able to brand the interface and modify its look and feel so as to make it more meaningful and relevant to those users who would use the interface on a regular basis.

Over the lifespan of the partnership, Netsweeper will introduce new features such as system designed specifically for the management of student mobile laptops for those districts deploying a 1:1 eLearning program. Netsweeper will also work collaboratively with MOREnet to address successive technical challenges.

The Netsweeper support team worked collaboratively with MOREnet IT and network professional technicians and acted proactively to facilitate solutions to immediate challenges. Netsweeper's dedication to personalized customer service and customer satisfaction was paramount and a key factor as MOREnet continues its long-term partnership with Netsweeper.

The Client...

MOREnet links Missouri to a world of knowledge through a statewide research and education network. Schools, public libraries, academic institutions and state agencies linked to the network have access to a secure broadband Internet connection, staff training, technical support and electronic resources, making equitable access possible across Missouri.

MOREnet serves over 350,000 students, more than 50,000 staff members and public Internet access to millions of Missouri citizens via their library network. All told, MOREnet services over 3,000 buildings in the state. At this point MOREnet has a 3.6 Gb per second connection to the Internet and all web traffic is managed through three primary nodes at St Louis, Kansas City and Columbia, MO. Every school and administrative building relies on this network. MOREnet brings together sessions and solutions designed to help attendees acquire knowledge, develop strategies, generate policy and security ideas and find solutions for ways to reach their students in this fast-paced, technology-driven digital age.

