Linewize
by Family Zone

CASE STUDY

Hutto Independent School District

This is the story of one district's journey to create a comprehensive cybersafety ecosystem as a Linewize Partner.

"Linewize jumped out at me while I was as TCEA because of how their approach to content filtering differed from their competitors."

Keith Reynolds
Senior Network Administrator

The district

Hutto ISD is a proud district that develops community involvement and support through strong relationships and caring for all kids. They achieve success for all students by creating world-class problem solvers and 21st century learners.

Hutto ISD offers more than just a high school diploma through a wide-range of advanced and college-level courses, dual-credit coursework; a Career and Technical Education program featuring numerous certifications including culinary arts, health sciences, business and veterinarian programs; award-winning and state-recognized art, band, music and athletic programs, a state-awarded and nationally recognized FCCLA program; and excellent expanded facilities.

The district also recently became the first in the area to offer a full-day Head Start program. During the past 10 years, the number of students attending Hutto ISD has increased from just over 1,000 students in one K-12 campus to more than 8,100 students at ten campuses, and enrollment continues to grow by nearly 300 students each year.

Linewize Case Study: Hutto Independent School District

"I liked how Linewize operated off of metadata communicated between an agent and a policy/reporting server and allowed the agent on the device to handle the filtering. Another constant pain point is SSL interception. Deploying certificates and man-in-the-middle intercepting traffic has always caused problems for me. Linewize observes the browsing at a level where you don't even have to mess with the SSL session which is a much simpler way to handle the problem."

The challenge

Hutto ISD's previous content filter was a legacy hardware-based solution. With the lack of SSL decryption and lack of off-site filtering, they were having issues with getting the visibility, granularity and control they needed. They couldn't accurately report to non-technical administrators and did not have a take-home solution. The district also didn't want to manage multiple solutions and were really looking for a vendor that could provide premium support.

![Linewize by Family Zone logo]

The Linewize Journey

Hutto ISD decided to test the Linewize product after seeing a demo at the TCEA tradeshow. They started with a proof of concept (POC) deployment for one Junior High School. Soon after the POC was deployed, the COVID-19 pandemic started forcing US school districts to shut down, causing Hutto to suddenly have to send 3,500 devices home. Linewize was able to filter all of the take-home devices within minutes, which allowed for a very seamless and easy deployment.

Since the COVID-19 events, they have decided to send 1:1 devices for middle school and high school students in the fall, knowing the experience with Linewize will make that an easy transition.

"My experience with Linweize has been simple and effective. We're currently only using the cloud filtering options for Chromebooks, but getting that set up and deployed only took a few hours. During the proof of concept, we didn't even need to mess with our current content filter. Linewize came in as another layer and didn't conflict at all."

![Linewize by Family Zone logo]

Outcomes

The Linewize platform has been able to provide Hutto ISD a true hybrid solution with the ability to filter devices on the school network and when the devices travel off-network. With proper SSL decryption and hybrid filtering, the district now has granular visiblity into their traffic and user behavior and is able to provide laymen reporting to non-technical district admins.

Hutto ISD can now take care of all their filtering needs in one solution, while relying on Linewize's unmatched support.

"Our proof of concept was the two weeks leading up to Spring Break 2020. In the final days before leaving for the break, we decided to go ahead with Linewize. This was an incredibly fortunate timeline for our COVID lockdown situation. The district decided to handout Chromebooks for students that needed a dedicated device for remote learning at home. Expanding our proof of concept to cover all of the devices going to student homes took me about 10 minutes. Linewize made maintaining CIPA compliance incredibly easy."

About Linewize

The Linewize ecosystem is a unique response to the challenge of today's connected learning environments. The ecosystem aligns a series of products to help districts stay in regulatory compliance, get the most out of their purchased technology, keep kids cyber-safe at school, and impact the parent community by assisting them in raising good digital citizens. For more information, please visit www.linewize.com.