

## Case Study

*‘We’re promoting and empowering the boys to take control of their cyber world and how good online behaviour should be seen.’*

Karel Bos  
Dean of Students (7-12)  
The Southport School



Saasyan Assure enables schools to proactively safeguard the online welfare of students by providing teachers, pastoral care professionals, school leaders and IT managers with unparalleled visibility of online activity.

Teachers can easily manage web access from their classroom, saving time for teachers and IT managers as well as reducing learning disruptions associated with inappropriate internet use.

Assure’s simple to use reporting and alerting system offers powerful, actionable insights powered by artificial intelligence that facilitate early intervention in cases of bullying and self-harm while also improving learning outcomes.



### About The Southport School

TSS is an Anglican K-12 school for boys located on the Gold Coast in Queensland. Established in 1901 TSS offers a boy-specific curriculum to more than 1,700 students, including more than 300 boarders.

### The challenge

TSS continues to be a pioneer in using technology across the school and in the classroom to improve learning outcomes and teaching productivity. This includes encouraging students to bring their own device (BYOD) to access school resources and the internet.

This constant use of technology by staff and students has resulted in many terabytes of data being consumed across the school’s dual internet connections each day. The school has been targeted on several occasions with ransomware attacks and identified the need for enterprise-grade, next-generation firewall infrastructure to manage the high volume of data and protect the school from attacks.

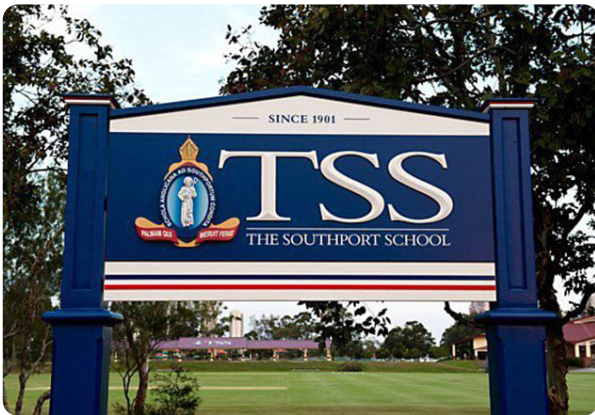
The school implemented the TSS Diligence Scale to identify specific behaviours that optimise academic success with ‘use of technology’ being one of five criteria used to guide student learning. A simple-to-use reporting system for teachers, leaders the wellbeing team and IT was required to provide an evidenced-based understanding of internet use across the cohort with drill-down capability to specific students.

## The solution

TSS deployed two best-in-class firewalls from Palo Alto Networks with each connected to separate internet providers at both campuses in an active/active high availability mode. The network caters for the high internet traffic demands of more than two 2,000 staff and students and is scalable as network demands increase.

Saasyan Assure is a cloud-based, software-as-a-service solution that requires no infrastructure at the school. Assure securely analyses data directly provided by the Palo Alto Networks firewalls at TSS. And since Saasyan is a Palo Alto Networks NextWave Technology Partner, TSS are confident that the two collaborative solutions are designed to work seamlessly.

The Assure solution delivered immediate benefits to the school, including reduced time wasting in classes due to the granular control provided by Assure. The dashboard has been widely used across the school as an effective tool to stop cyberbullying. The ability to review internet usage across student year levels and then drill down to compare a specific student's access has provided evidenced-based coaching opportunities to help students progress on the TSS Diligence Scale.



TSS has found Assure to be effective in alerting teachers and wellbeing staff if students attempt to access dangerous or inappropriate websites and if they search for alarming terms in search engines. These alerts are powered by Saasyan's Artificial Intelligence (AI) system that constantly learns from search terms to automatically identify new phrases that require alerting.

Assure's self-service reports have also reduced the IT workload because Saasyan Assure provides all staff with a simple and reliable system to create and schedule reports without IT assistance.

A senior TSS student commented that the system holds him 'more accountable' and Karel Bos, Dean of Students (7-12) concluded that 'the systems are helping educate students and prepare them for the future'.

*'Saasyan Assure transforms huge volumes of internet data from our Palo Alto Networks firewalls into meaningful dashboards and easy-to-use reports for our wellbeing, teaching and IT staff. I'm so impressed with Assure that I've recommended the solution to many other schools.'*

Richard Humphreys, IT Manager

## The benefits

- **Enhanced student welfare**  
Proactive counselling of students enabled by providing real-time actionable insights and alerts like potential cyberbullying incidents.
- **Improved learning outcomes**  
Evidence-based web usage reports used to guide student use of technology and reinforce the TSS Diligence Scale system.
- **Increased efficiency for school leaders and wellbeing team**  
Self-service access to meaningful web usage reports and alerts to review whole-of-school, year-group or individual students.
- **Productivity gains for IT management**  
Reduced time spent exporting data and creating reports.
- **Responsible financial management**  
Leveraged the existing investment in the Palo Alto Networks enterprise-grade next-generation firewall infrastructure.

## Contact Saasyan

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