

CASE STUDY

Education



Overview

With the growing sophistication and frequency of cyberthreats worldwide, there was a need for our client in the education industry to improve their cybersecurity practices by aligning with stringent government policies.

During the routine IT audit checks, one of the cybersecurity gaps identified to be improved was to eliminate the use of SMB protocol for file sharing.

To eliminate this risk posed to their network by the SMB protocol vulnerabilities, EasiShare, a secure file sharing solution with an impeccable track record with other Institutes of Higher Learning, was nominated and implemented for more than 2500 faculty members across 3 campuses.



Challenges

SMB Protocol Ban Due to the Persistent Risks

Time and time again, SMB Protocol has shown persistent security risks (e.g. Microsoft warns of flaws found in SMBv1 - 2017, SMBv2 - 2009 and SMBv3 - 2020) and brought significant widespread ransomware attacks in recent years. Hence, under an updated security mandate, the use of SMB protocol is banned throughout the Singapore Government agencies.

The Emergence of Shadow IT

With the consumerization of IT, Shadow IT within organisations becomes prevalent. From the use of public emails to public cloud storage, our lives are intertwined with today's technologies.

Faculty members bring their daily habits of using public tools

7TH Most Attacked Industry

This number accounts for 8% of all attacks, compared to the most attacked sector which accounted for 17% of attacks.

Source: IBM X-Force Threat Intelligence Index 2020

into their workplaces, creating great risks for the organisation. Their IT Team was tasked to enhance cybersecurity based on audit recommendations and had to find a trusted solution to comply.

Complex, Continuous Monitoring & Auditing

Our client has increased emphasis on audit logs as a critical part of the IT security strategy where logs provide important clues about anomalies in their IT systems.

While using SMB network drives, the IT team had challenges to track incidents and users' activities. Analysing every log was time-consuming and specific tools or expertise were required and resulted increased operational costs.

“Increase workplace efficiencies while complying with security protocols”

IT Manager in the Education Sector



Solution



EasiShare enables the faculty members to collaborate internally on student reports and result sheets securely through a managed folder shared to authorised users. While sending out the students' report externally, they can share through EasiShare platform using security features like two-factor authentication, link expiry, view only mode, and restrict number of download attempts. EasiShare also backs up files automatically to a centralised storage with its sync function, allowing users to access their files from any campus and on any device easily.

IT administrators, can set granular permissions and restrictions to prevent the inappropriate use of common network folders. They are now able to track users' file behaviour easily through a comprehensive audit log report.

When the modernisation of their storages is required due to the ban of SMB protocol, EasiShare provides flexible connectors to connect to any storages while running concurrently with their existing storage infrastructure, preventing a major overhaul in its systems.



Results



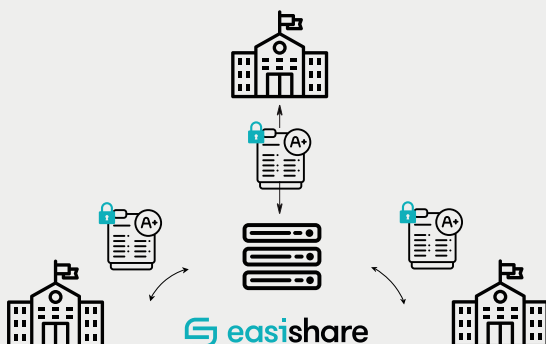
EasiShare has helped meet both the needs of the IT and the faculty members within the institution. The solution addresses both the operational efficiencies of more than 2500 faculty members and the security posture of the institution at the same time.

With the new solution implemented, faculty members are equipped with the tools to play a part in cultivating a security-driven culture while carrying out day to day work processes without interruptions. EasiShare provides the ideal platform to collaborate, back up and send files through its simplified and unified interface and ensures the integrity of files that are in transit and at rest with its security features.

As for IT Administrators, they can now comply with the mandate of banning the SMB protocol without disrupting their users to transition seamlessly without affecting their work patterns. There's better control through granular policy controls and audit history. Additionally, they have managed to save huge costs of refreshing storage systems and data migration.

Use Case

Fast and reliable exchange of student reports and result sheets between campuses



Seamless sync and backup of files made possible with object storage

