Netintelligence

Acadamia.net. Case Study

No Child Left Behind

On January 8, 2002, US President George Bush signed into law the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. The Act is the most sweeping reform of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) since ESEA was enacted in 1965. It redefines the federal role in K-12 education and will help close the achievement gap between disadvantaged and minority students and their peers. It is based on four basic principles: stronger accountability for results, increased flexibility and local control, expanded options for parents, and an emphasis on teaching methods that have been proven to work.

Academia.net Inc was created to provide underprivileged children in grade levels K-12 a resource where they can improve their understanding of selected subjects without intimidating circumstances or atmospheres. Acadamia has two main goals, the first is to increase the overall percentages of children passing the state's basic skills test, and the second is to ensure that children of all cultural groups, all grade levels and especially in financially challenged households, receive the opportunity to improve their education regardless of their parent's perceived status in today's society.

Joe Becker, President of Acadamia, states: *"The Company was created in Saint Paul, Minnesota in 2002. We wanted to create a tutorial that empowered the children in a nurturing and supportive atmosphere. In addition, it was felt the student's achievements, or lack thereof, was not being acknowledged by certain groups of people. This was the premise behind designing a quality, modern program where the student would be rewarded upon their diligent studies. Since the inception of our company, we have been blessed to tutor children from all over the United States. Our program has been created in English and Spanish and our tutors are fluent in Spanish, Hmong and Russian."*

In addition to providing a online tutorial based program, Acadamia also provides laptops and internet connection for families with a need. These are offered free to the families provided that certain criteria are met; chief amongst these is that the children have to log on to Acadamia for a minimum number of hours. Upon completion of the tutorial, the student can keep the computer as a reward for finishing their studies.

This ground breaking 'laptop as a reward' program has proved to be very successful, but launching it was not without it challenges. Joe explained: *"One of the issues that soon surfaced with the program, was that we found that the parents and/or the child were using the laptop to surf the internet regularly, but were not visiting the Acadamia site for educational tutoring."*

"This led us to start searching for solutions that would enable us to force the students to our web site during the 'working day' but then would allow open access to the web at a certain time in the evening. Not only that, but as we have the laptops shipped across 17 States by our hardware supplier, we did not want them to have to spend any time with additional configuration nor did we want the parent/s to have to change their user settings on set up. The solution was going to have to accommodate these requirements as well. I genuinely did not believe that we would find such a beast on the market." stated Joe.

"We then discovered Ni Enterprise Manager, from Netintelligence, and it immediately solved our problems at one stroke".

Ni Enterprise Manager offers a simple way of managing user activity no matter where the users are. An 'all in one service' service that combines core security functionality of anti virus/spyware, web filtering, IM & P2P control, firewall, asset and usage management with comprehensive reporting, Ni Enterprise Manager offers a truly unique 'plug and play' web based management, protection and control service.

Joe explains: *"We contacted Netintelligence and asked them to create a default policy for us. We then arranged with our hardware supplier to simply download the Ni Enterprise Manager, complete with our bespoke default policy, onto each laptop before shipping. This ensured that our preferred usage policy was deployed prior to the laptop being used in the home. Once the student has completed their full tutorial course, we simply remove the restriction and then they are free to use the laptop as they wish. The real beauty of Ni Enterprise Manager is that as it is web based we can centrally change and remove the policy settings remotely, across every unit regardless of its location, and without any end user intervention at all. Another great benefit of Ni Enterprise Manager is that it covers many functions such as Anti Virus, Firewall and usage reporting - so it has given us total control and security whilst the laptop remains in our care."*

Finally Joe adds: *"Since using Ni Enterprise Manager, we have heard on numerous occasions that the student has completed their tutorial as a result of being restricted to our web site. Ni Enterprise Manager has delivered a double whammy for us, the incentive of receiving the laptop as a reward has been driving our students on to complete their studies, and we at Acadamia are delighted at the increased student pass rate."*

"I would not hesitate in recommending Ni Enterprise Manager to any organisation that needs to control laptop usage across networks and locations - it really is exceptional."

Acadamia   www.acadamia.net