



### The Organization

Rush Croft Sports College  
Rushcroft Road  
E4 8SG London  
<http://www.rushcroft.com>

### The Challenge

Provide school staff with secure remote access to network resources.

### The SonicWALL Solution

Rush Croft installed a SonicWALL SSL-VPN 4000 appliance to allow teachers, administrators and IT staff to work securely from remote locations. The school also installed a SonicWALL TZ 170 and SonicWALL Email Security 300 appliance to protect network infrastructure from spam, viruses, intrusions and spyware.

### The Results

- Provides teachers and administrators with secure remote access to network resources.
- IT staff can work on network remotely to resolve problems, and manage network updates and user access policies.
- SonicWALL SSL-VPN, network security and e-mail security solutions provide comprehensive network security solution for the school.

Based in London, England, Rush Croft Sports College is an award-winning secondary school and sports college for nearly 900 11-19 year olds. The school has more than 150 employees, which are dedicated to the principles of physical activity, the promotion of healthy lifestyles and the development of self management, and modern education, which create a unique educational experience. In an effort to differentiate itself from other schools in the area, Rush Croft has focused on enhancing its information technology resources and infrastructure, which in turn will help improve learning opportunities for its students and productivity for its teachers and administrative staff. As a result of its increased focus on technology, Rush Croft deployed a SonicWALL® TZ 170 network security appliance and a SonicWALL Email Security 300 appliance to safeguard its network infrastructure from spam attacks, viruses, intrusions and spyware, as well as to protect confidential and sensitive student and employee information.

The focus on technology also created a demand for 24-hour access to the school's network. Unfortunately, without a secure remote access solution, teachers would have to return to school to get files, and Rush Croft's IT staff would have to be on site to fix any problems, manage user access rights and monitor network upgrades and updates.

"Our challenge with secure remote access stemmed from a lack of technology rather than problems with any current solution," said Miro Blahut, ICT technician for Rush Croft Sports College. "Our teachers needed access to the network from home, and as an IT staff, being able to securely access the network from wherever we were also became very important. We were comfortable with our SonicWALL's security solutions, so when we decided to search for a secure remote access solution, our first reaction was to contact a SonicWALL representative."

In addition to evaluating the SonicWALL SSL-VPN 4000 appliance, Rush Croft also looked at solutions from Cisco and Microsoft. In the end, it was the compatibility with its existing SonicWALL firewall and e-mail security solutions that moved the school to deploy the SonicWALL SSL-VPN appliance. The SSL-VPN met Rush Croft's key requirements for a secure remote access solution. Most importantly, the SSL-VPN:

- Eliminates need to install or set up client applications on remote users' workstations
- Works seamlessly to provide authentication with Active Directory
- Stops anyone from accidentally or intentionally being able to access sensitive areas of the school's network

## Rush Croft Sports College

*"We recommend SonicWALL security solutions to other organizations because of their ease-of-use, seamless integration with network resources, easy management and low requirements for administration. For a relatively small organization like Rush Croft, SonicWALL provides the highest level of performance and protection at a truly affordable cost."*

*—Miro Blahut  
ICT Technician  
Rush Croft Sports College*

### SonicWALL Benefits

■ **Clientless connectivity and simplified management.**

SonicWALL SSL-VPN eliminates the need for administrators to install a "fat" VPN client, and can be managed from any location using an intuitive Web interface.

■ **Granular access policy controls.** SonicWALL SSL-VPN access controls allow school IT staff to enforce policy-defined access to user-defined network resources.

■ **Deep packet inspection firewall coupled with gateway anti-virus, anti-spyware and intrusion prevention.** The SonicWALL TZ 170 protects school's network from dynamic threats, including viruses, spyware and other malicious code.

■ **Award-winning anti-spam.** The SonicWALL Email Security 300 appliance ensures the most effective protection against spam.

Rush Croft's goal is to utilize the SonicWALL SSL-VPN 4000 to extend remote access to all members of the school's 150-person staff in addition to providing each of its students with remote access to personalized portals and files. The SSL-VPN 4000 appliance offers granular policy-configuration controls, enables Rush Croft's IT department to create policies that allow users access to only specific applications and resources while preventing unauthorized access to other files or areas of the network. It only requires a standard Web browser to log into a portal, which is provided through a customizable user interface that displays only the resources defined in the school's access policies.

"Currently, teachers are accessing their documents and other files on the network while some of our staff use VPN tunnelling to access our SQL-based school management system," added Blahut. "If we decide to permit students to access the school's network, the SonicWALL SSL-VPN 4000 appliance will allow us to define specific applications and files that they can access through their own password-protected portal. So far, all of our users really appreciate the intuitive Web interface and the ability to access the network from anywhere."

While the SSL-VPN 4000 appliance integrates seamlessly with any firewall, the device benefits from enhanced security when deployed with a SonicWALL network security appliance, such as the school's SonicWALL TZ 170. The TZ 170 features a deep packet inspection firewall coupled with gateway anti-virus, anti-spyware and intrusion prevention services that strengthen the school's network access security and protect the network from possible problems with remote user download and upload activity.

The combination of SonicWALL solutions provides Rush Croft with a variety of benefits, including:

- Allowing teachers to work from home and be more productive away from school
- Providing administrators with the ability to solve problems remotely
- Providing the IT staff with better tools to manage network devices, security and resources remotely
- Reducing management of network security as a result of SonicWALL's ease of use and automatic updates
- Dramatic reduction in spam

"We recommend SonicWALL security solutions to other organizations because of their ease of use, seamless integration with our network resources, easy management and low requirements for administration," concluded Blahut. "For a relatively small organization like Rush Croft, SonicWALL provides the highest level of performance and protection at a truly affordable cost. SonicWALL's solutions support our efforts to provide our teachers and students with the technology resources that will characterize their Rush Croft teaching and learning experiences."

### SonicWALL, Inc.

1143 Borregas Avenue  
Sunnyvale CA 94089-1306

T +1 408.745.9600  
F +1 408.745.9300

[www.sonicwall.com](http://www.sonicwall.com)

