

# Helping to give people at risk a better life

Depaul uses SonicWall solution to enhance network security and visibility, helping people at risk improve their opportunities with reliable WiFi access



## Customer profile



|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| <b>Company</b>   | Depaul   |
| <b>Industry</b>  | Nonprofit  |
| <b>Country</b>   | U.K. & Ireland   |
| <b>Employees</b> | 385  |
| <b>Website</b>   | <a href="http://ie.depaulcharity.org/">ie.depaulcharity.org/</a> |

## Business need

Charity organisation Depaul needed to improve network security and visibility at 20 locations, while delivering reliable and secure WiFi access to employees and people at risk.

## Solution

The charity worked with technology firm EMIT to implement a network security solution, based on SonicWall firewalls and access points, at sites across Ireland and Northern Ireland.

## Benefits

- Blocks 75,000 threats in six months
- Gains network visibility into 20 sites throughout Ireland and Northern Ireland
- Reduces IT security costs by 50 percent in the first year
- Enables new opportunities for people who are at risk

## Solutions at a glance

- [Wireless Network Security](#)
- [Next Generation Firewalls](#)

“We have much more robust security with the SonicWall firewalls, and we are more confident that traffic is being filtered and blocked as it comes into the network.”

*Aoife Watters, director of finance and corporate services, Depaul*

Depaul has an important mission: helping people who face homelessness to stay off the streets for good. Every day, the charity works with homeless and marginalised individuals, couples, and families in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

“With secure WiFi, people at risk can take online courses and search for employment whenever they want. This opens up doors and helps them build a better future.”

*Aoife Watters, director of finance and corporate services, Depaul*

Depaul wanted to give secure internet access to people at its short- and long-term accommodation services, enabling them to search for education and work opportunities online. The charity also wanted to offer secure WiFi access to its own staff members, as well as advanced web and content filtering for all web users. However, Depaul was concerned about a possible increase in security risk due to expanding its IT services. “We have two main offices and 18 other sites throughout Ireland and Northern Ireland where we offer accommodation and support services,” says Aoife Watters, Depaul’s director of finance and corporate services. “Because all 18 sites operated separately from our central offices, it was risky from a security perspective.”

To address this challenge, Depaul wanted greater visibility into all its locations, so it could centrally manage network activity, viruses and other threats.

### Deploying SonicWall firewalls and access points to 20 locations

Depaul engaged with technology firm EMIT. “We’d worked successfully with EMIT on previous projects,” says Watters. “We wanted to work with EMIT again to improve our network security and visibility.”

EMIT and Depaul implemented an IT security managed service based on SonicWall next-generation firewall technology. EMIT installed SonicWall TZ500 firewalls at the two primary Depaul offices and SonicWall TZ300 at the charity’s 18 other locations. To provide secure wireless internet access,

it also deployed SonicWall SonicPoint wireless access points at each of the charity’s 20 locations. To maintain network security, EMIT created separate zones on the firewalls with no access to the main network. These guest zones would allow people at Depaul accommodation services to get online.

IT administrators from EMIT are also taking advantage of SonicWall Global Management System (GMS) to centrally manage the firewalls. Using GMS, administrators can streamline security appliance deployment and policy management.

### Blocking 75,000 threats in six months

Across all SonicWall firewalls, Depaul has Comprehensive Gateway Security Suite protection. This includes complete security against all known threats as well as gateway anti-virus certified by the ICISA (The Governance Institute). In addition, it has Advanced Gateway Security Suite protection on

#### Products & Services

SonicWall TZ500 next-generation firewalls with Advanced & Comprehensive Gateway Security Suite.

SonicWall TZ300 next-generation firewalls with Comprehensive Gateway Security Suite.

SonicWall SonicPoint wireless access points.

SonicWall Global Management System.

two of its SonicWall TZ500 firewalls. This gives the firewalls the additional support of a multi-engine sandbox.

"We have much more robust security with the SonicWall firewalls, and we are more confident that traffic is being filtered and blocked as it comes into the network," says Watters. "We have thousands of people online constantly, so this is a huge advantage for Depaul."

### Providing network visibility into 20 sites across Ireland and Northern Ireland

The charity has clearer visibility into the networks at all its sites thanks to the SonicWall solution. "We get monthly reports that show us network trends, so, for example, we can see where blockages have occurred," Watters says. "We have much greater visibility into what's going on at each location using SonicWall GMS, the SonicWall firewalls, and the SonicPoint access points."

### Reducing IT security costs by 50 percent

By taking advantage of a firewall-as-a-service model, Depaul has reduced the cost of its IT security services by 50 percent in the solution's first year. "Paying for the 20 firewalls on a monthly basis really makes sense for us, and it will enable us to better manage our costs in the future," says Watters.

### Easing firewall deployment and management

Firewall deployment and administration is now much simpler for IT administrators from EMIT. "Future firewall and WiFi rollouts will be easy because we can do everything in a few clicks using the SonicWall solution," says Watters.

And EMIT now performs security updates via the firewall-as-a-service help desk, so a change request process that previously took days now takes seconds. "We know that if we open another site, for instance, firewall installation will be fast and everything will be pushed out automatically through remote login. A lot of the administrative effort is reduced for us," says Watters.

### Giving people better opportunities

By providing WiFi access at all its sites, Depaul can give people at risk across Ireland and Northern Ireland the ability to further their education or find jobs. "With secure WiFi, people at risk can take online courses and search for employment whenever they want," says Watters. "This opens up doors and helps them build a better future."

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