



## **Jacksonville Independent School District selects the NorthSeas Guard E/N™ appliance to create and maintain an archive of its email**

### **District Overview**

The Jacksonville ISD maintains a total of 8 campuses and 5 auxiliary facilities, and serves an enrollment of approximately 4,900 students. Located in North East Texas, the district is made up of one high school, one Intermediate school, one middle school, 4 elementary schools, and one alternative school. Jacksonville ISD is part of the SUPERNet Consortium, a group of 17 school districts that bond together for technology information sharing and combined purchasing power.

### **The Business Requirement**

The district had recently been advised that they needed an email archiving system for compliance with the Texas Public Information Act, (TPIA) which gives the public the right to request access to information including email kept by government agencies. In the past year the district has received several requests for information that required numerous man hours to research and comply with. The district needed an affordable and efficient way to comply with the TPIA when a request is received.

### **The Technical environment**

For staff email, Jacksonville ISD uses a Luisa postfix email server, an integrated Firewall, spam filter and Proxy server. The district has approximately 650 mailboxes and most users use Outlook Express as their email client.

### **The Solution**

In response to this requirement, Hedda Alexander, Technology Director for the district investigated options with fellow school districts in the SUPERNet consortium. Messaging Solutions, a Houston based value added reseller of messaging products and an authorized NorthSeas partner was asked to propose a solution because of their experience successfully implementing archival solutions for members of SUPERNet consortium. After a review of their requirements, Robert DeMond of Messaging Solutions recommended the NorthSeas Guard E/N™ appliance for archiving and the Buffalo Technology TeraStation Pro™ for the archival storage.

The Guard E/N is a vendor neutral archival appliance that works with most major email platforms. The Guard E/N automatically captures all email sent and received, works with most storage solutions and creates a vendor-independent message repository with self-service access for end-users and administrators

### **How it Works**

The entire, end-to-end solution was designed for safe storage and easy retrieval.

All sent or received messages are automatically blind copied from the Luisa system to the NorthSeas appliance which first indexes then archives the messages on the TeraStation, creating a NorthSeas Message Store. Messages are stored in an Internet-standard RFC822 file format, the most compliant of e-mail standards and message metadata is captured in a user-searchable Archive Index stored on the NorthSeas Guard E/N™. This approach provides a very cost effective, scalable and secure infrastructure for Jacksonville ISD.

The Buffalo Technology 1 Terabyte TeraStation Pro™ appliance is an extremely cost effective storage solution that offers highly flexible storage configuration and management. The TeraStation Pro can be configured in one of 4 operating modes - as 4 independent drives; as 1 massive network share consisting of all 4 drives spanned; as Raid1 (mirrored) with 500 GB of capacity (2 250 GB Arrays); or as Raid 5 providing 750 GB of storage. This flexibility allows the district to share storage capacity with other applications, thereby providing even greater efficiency.

Installation of the archiving solution took less than an hour.

### **The Benefits**

The district is now able to respond quickly to citizens' requests for information and with considerably less effort than before. "Before implementing the NorthSeas appliance, information requests were placing a significant burden on an already busy network administrator", said Hedda Alexander, the District Technology Director. "Now, any e-mail message can be found and retrieved by executing one simple search."

An additional benefit is that because all messages are archived, in the event of a catastrophic event, the email archive can be used to help restore messages to the email server faster in some instances than restoring from back up tapes. The NorthSeas ability to replay messages to a user's inbox can be granted directly to the users so that any message is available to them even those that had been deleted. Buddy Attaway, District network administrator, likes the self-service aspect of the system: "This will help reduce the amount of time I now spend restoring messages that users accidentally lost or deleted".

Robert DeMond of Messaging Solutions was quoted as saying "The ease of implementation and its attractive price-point makes the Guard E/N and the TeraStation Pro solution a logical choice for school districts on an already tight budget - the total cost of this solution was less than \$6,000, less than half of most archive solutions."

### **ABOUT NorthSeas AMT**

NorthSeas Advanced Messaging Technology, Inc. (*NorthSeas*) was established in 2003 to provide the global marketplace with simple and effective e-mail management solutions. NorthSeas (based in Ottawa, Canada's high-tech capital) and its team of professionals share the company's founding opinion that even the most difficult of information technology challenges can be resolved effectively with relatively simple solutions.

**ABOUT MESSAGING SOLUTIONS**

Messaging Solutions LLC ([www.emailarchivesolutions.com](http://www.emailarchivesolutions.com)) is a Houston based value added re-seller and systems integrator specializing in solutions that help manage, optimize and secure enterprise messaging systems. Messaging Solutions is a specialist in email archive solutions and has a very successful track record of delivering complete archive solutions to enterprises of nearly any size, they offer a variety of archival solutions, storage solutions, storage management solutions and search and forensics utilities. Messaging Solutions has been a NorthSeas partner since 2004.