



GARDEN CITY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Faronics WINSelect and **Garden City Public Schools**

CASE STUDY



History



The first school in what is now Garden City was a log cabin built sometime between 1840 and 1845. Today, Garden City has five elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school.

The district also operates the internationally renowned Burger Center for the Autistically Impaired, serving students ages 2.5 to 26 years. In addition, the Cambridge Center for Adult and Community Education serves hundreds more community members each year, with programs for job training, alternative education, and enrichment courses.

The State Board of Education has designated Garden City's outstanding elementary Japanese and Spanish curriculum a "model world language program," one of only 11 named as such in the state. Students begin their study of Japanese or Spanish in Grade two or three and may continue through graduation.

Situation

The Garden City School district has approximately 600 staff and 5,500 students using 1,300 workstations. Half of the workstations are running a Windows environment, while the other half are Macintosh computers. The district has 13 servers, half of which use NetWare 6.5 and half of which use OS X.

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- Tim Klan
Technology Supervisor



Problem

The school district was experiencing problems with students getting into and changing the proxy settings in Internet Explorer. Students were also changing other settings and using Windows Networking to get into other machines in the building that were not secure. Sometimes students were getting into places through right-clicking in certain task bars or menu bars, which was difficult for administrators to control or restrict.

Garden City used Fortres 101 for approximately four to five years as a solution against these problems, but the software was not doing what they needed it to. Students frequently found ways around it or figured out what machines were not secured.

Garden City’s IT staff consists of two full-time and one part-time employees. The three staff were responsible for managing 1,300 computers, and spent a lot of time re-imaging machines to deal with the problems that occurred when students found ways around Fortres 101.

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Solution

The IT staff at Garden City were already using Deep Freeze from Faronics on several of their labs, and heard about WINSelect through the company. The staff were so impressed with Deep Freeze that they thought another solution from Faronics was a good bet.

Tim Klan, Technology Supervisor at Garden City Schools, downloaded an evaluation copy of WINSelect. After the evaluation period, the IT staff found that they liked WINSelect better than Fortres 101; it was an easier product to use and competitively priced. Because they were already using Deep Freeze, they felt confident in the product’s ability to solve their problems.

Evaluation

Garden City currently has WINSelect installed on almost 100 computers in the district. The IT staff has configured the program to control their web browsers and to control where students can save files to. WINSelect also lets administrators disable the right-click mouse option to prevent students from accessing restricted places on the system.

“WINSelect has completely taken away the day-to-day problems,” said Mr. Klan. “Partnered with Deep Freeze, it relieves my tech department from having to touch the machines for anything other than hardware issues. We spend little if no time on the machines that we have this installed on.”



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