DARKTRACE

CASE STUDY

# United World College of South East Asia

UWCSEA

## Overview

### Industry

- Education

### Challenge

- Complex network environment with over 7,000 mobile and BYOD devices
- Concerned about protecting private personal information
- Limited security resources
- Needed a tool to stay ahead of fast-moving and sophisticated threats

### Results

- Full network visibility via the 3D Threat Visualizer
- Use AI algorithms to detect emerging threats in real time
- Self-learning technology lessens the burden on security staff
- Continuous monitoring of rogue and BYOD devices

## Business Background

The United World College of South East Asia (UWCSEA) is an independent international school in Singapore and a member of the United World College movement. The school provides a K-12 education consisting of several elements including academics, activities, outdoor education, personal and social development, and community service. The school has two campuses, with over 5,500 students and 1,000 staff.

> We were impressed when Darktrace's self-learning technology found early-stage malware on a device that all of our other tools missed.
>
> **Ben Morgan, Director of IT, UWCSEA**

## Challenge

UWCSEA is one of the most well-respected schools in the APAC region. Each one of its students owns a personal device connected to the school's network and is encouraged to use phones, computers and tablets for educational purposes. With over 200 applications and several thousand devices in the hands of students, UWCSEA's vast network was exposed to risk at any point. In the face of a rapidly-evolving threat landscape, with large scale attacks that exploit IoT vulnerabilities, UWCSEA needed real-time visibility of all the devices on its network.

Compounding these challenges, as a non-profit institution, UWCSEA has limited resources. Its lean security team found it virtually impossible to sift through thousands of logs and attempt to spot threatening anomalies.

Knowing that a breach of its sensitive student and parent data could cause significant reputational damage, UWCSEA is determined to use the most innovative tools on the market to defend its network.

"Over the past year, we have become increasingly aware of how sophisticated new threats can be, and our legacy tools were proving insufficient," commented Ben Morgan, Director of IT, United World College of South East Asia. "We needed a tool that could learn and manage our complex network environment and provide visibility of thousands of user devices, in order to stay on top of this rapidly-evolving cyber climate."

## Solution

To meet these challenges, UWCSEA deployed the Enterprise Immune System to secure the network from the inside out. Once installed, the technology gave instant visibility into every corner of the network, including rogue devices and BYOD, without the need to train the technology.

"Darktrace's AI capabilities were proven the instant we deployed the technology," commented Morgan. "We could immediately see all devices on the 3D Threat Visualizer and, beyond that, see the most important areas of concern in real time. With so many devices to monitor, it truly speaks to the power of the technology that it can identify threats as they emerge."

Powered by unsupervised machine learning and AI algorithms, Darktrace works by establishing a 'pattern of life' for every user and device within UWCSEA's network, as well as by understanding 'self' for the network as a whole. The technology is fully self-learning and does not depend on rules, signatures, or prior assumptions of 'bad'. As such, it can automatically detect network anomalies, irrespective of their origin.

> Darktrace has taken the challenge of cyber security and flipped it on its head. By securing the network from the inside out, we are catching advanced threats that our perimeter defenses are powerless against.
>
> **Ben Morgan, Director of IT, UWCSEA**

## Benefits

Shortly after the installation, Darktrace's value was proven yet again. The technology alerted the security team to a serious anomaly within its network – a PC had been infected with malware – and no other tool from their security stack had reported the issue. The team was able to immediately take action and focus on remediating the problem before the infection could spread.

Thanks to the Enterprise Immune System, UWCSEA has taken back control of its network. With unprecedented network visibility, it can see all devices and internal communications in real time. Due to the power of the AI algorithms, the technology is able to classify threats by their gravity, allowing the security team to focus on only the most important battles.

UWCSEA has a peace of mind knowing that Darktrace's breakthrough technology is continuously learning, even as the network becomes increasingly complex and digitized. Armed with Darktrace's AI, UWCSEA has confidence in its ability to safeguard its sensitive data and business reputation.

"Artificial intelligence for security is no longer an option – it's a must-have," added Morgan. "It is impossible to keep up with new threats and sophisticated threat-actors. Darktrace has delivered on this promise and allows us to stay abreast of this new landscape while lessening the burden on our staff overall."


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