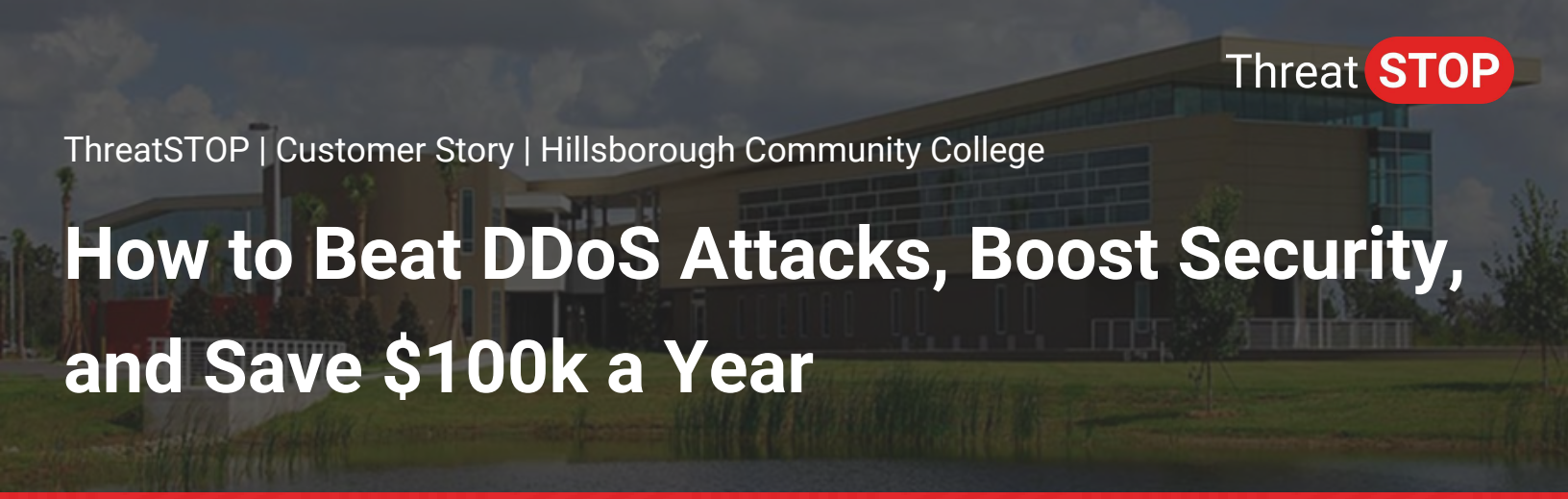

ThreatSTOP | Customer Story | Hillsborough Community College

How to Beat DDoS Attacks, Boost Security, and Save $100k a Year

CUSTOMER OVERVIEW

Hillsborough Community College (HCC) serves the metro Tampa, FL area with 6 campuses, 2 satellite sites, a corporate training center and a distance learning program. It has 47,000 students and a 2,500-member faculty. Its IT infrastructure consists of Microsoft Exchange Server, Cisco ASA router and SMTP gateway. All locations go through one central hub. It's anti-spam and virus defense is multi-layered, with Applied Watch at each location, and Sophos, Cisco IPS and Intelligent Messaging Control in the Exchange Server.

INDUSTRY
Education

SECURITY CHALLENGES

HCC had fallen victim to a StormWorm attack, resulting in a denial of service. The college needed a new, effective way to secure their network and block attacks.

WHY THEY CHOSE THREATSTOP

The community college's team selected ThreatSTOP because its cloud-based security solution offers quick, reliable and automatic protection from malicious inbound IP and DNS attacks, including DoS and DDoS, and reveals outbound connection attempts by malware already in the network.

SOLUTION IMPACT

$200K Saved
over 2 years

100K Attacks Blocked
per week

Restoration
of affected email service

"ThreatSTOP is such an easy and cost effective service to deploy"

- Steve Gorham, CIO of HCC

THE PROBLEM

HCC was installing a new, “best practices” security system from Cisco, Sophos, Applied Watch and Microsoft onto its existing network infrastructure. Due to a misconfiguration, the new system was overwhelmed by a StormWorm attack, resulting effectively in a denial of service and shutting down their email service. Complaints from students, faculty and administrators were immediate and loud, as they couldn’t get to email or the Web. “In the ensuing fire drill to find a solution—quickly—we came upon ThreatSTOP, and decided to try it in the spirit of ‘hey, there’s nothing to lose here’ since it was such an easy and cost effective service to deploy”, said Steve Gorham, CIO of HCC.

THE SOLUTION

By installing ThreatSTOP as the first line of defense at the firewall, most of the resource-sapping spam and other malware bombarding HCC was immediately blocked, enabling it to recover from the StormWork attack and to resume services to its customers. ThreatSTOP also caught misconfigured DNS servers querying phishing zone servers by recursively querying instead of using forwarders only, and blocked thousands of inbound attacks daily that were plaguing the college.

“The alternatives we were evaluating before ThreatSTOP involved upgrading our spam gateways, buying more load balancers, increasing RAM, the list goes on,” said HCC's system admin. “On top of that, it’s giving me the equivalent of one virtual FTE employee by cutting down a lot of the manual intervention I needed to do before, worry free,” he concluded.

> *“ThreatSTOP delayed my need to upgrade my email servers by two years. That’s $200,000 we put into the classroom instead of hardware."*

RESULTS - *Effective Protection and Peace of Mind*

The ThreatSTOP platform is a proven, easy and cost-effective cloud service that stops the pervasive botnet and malware problem at the gateway before damage is done. Automatically aggregating over 900 threat intelligence sources, it protects against all cyberthreats and data theft without the cost, time and complexity of a forklift upgrade that most other solutions require. ThreatSTOP's web-based reports provide a simple and effective diagnostic as well as remediation tool for IT and security professionals to protect their networks.