



Case Study

Faculty of Arts and Science

Concordia University



LEARN WHY ...

The Faculty of Arts and Science at Concordia University uses DefendX Software to understand and protect their data



"We manage, store, and protect all of the digital file data being generated by the faculty at the Faculty of Arts and Science. But we have limited capacity on our SAN (storage area network) and needed to make sure that our storage was efficiently utilized so that we could continue to meet the needs of all our clients without having to invest in more expensive SAN capacity."

Mohamed Mohamed
Network and Server Administrator
Faculty of Arts and Science, Concordia
University

About Concordia University Faculty of Arts and Science

Concordia University, located in the vibrant and cosmopolitan city of Montreal, Quebec, is one of Canada's most innovative and diverse comprehensive universities, with an enrollment of roughly 45,000 students spread across two large campuses. Concordia's highly accomplished faculty members adopt interdisciplinary approaches to learning and focus on offering the best possible scholarship, research, and training. In its classrooms, labs, and libraries at its downtown Sir George Williams and west-end Loyola campuses, the Concordia community is resolutely anchored to the real world — open and engaged, compassionate and caring.

It's an approach that dates back to the founding of Concordia in 1974 following the merger of Loyola College (1896) and Sir George Williams University (1926). Concordia offers more than 300 undergraduate and 200 graduate programs, diplomas, and certificates in four Faculties, a School of Graduate Studies, and a School of Extended Learning.

The Faculty of Arts and Science at Concordia is divided into three main areas: Humanities, which is home to eight departments and three colleges; Sciences, which is comprised of six departments and one college; and Social Sciences, with seven departments, one school, and one institute. The Faculty of Arts and Science has approximately 200 professors and thousands of students.

Challenge

“When we bought our SAN storage system and implemented VMware, we knew we’d quickly grow to hundreds of thousands of files. But we didn’t have the solutions needed to ensure the storage was utilized efficiently and not being consumed by non-school related data. We also wanted to protect our faculty from inadvertently downloading potentially hazardous file types such as ‘.exe’ files, which may contain viruses.”

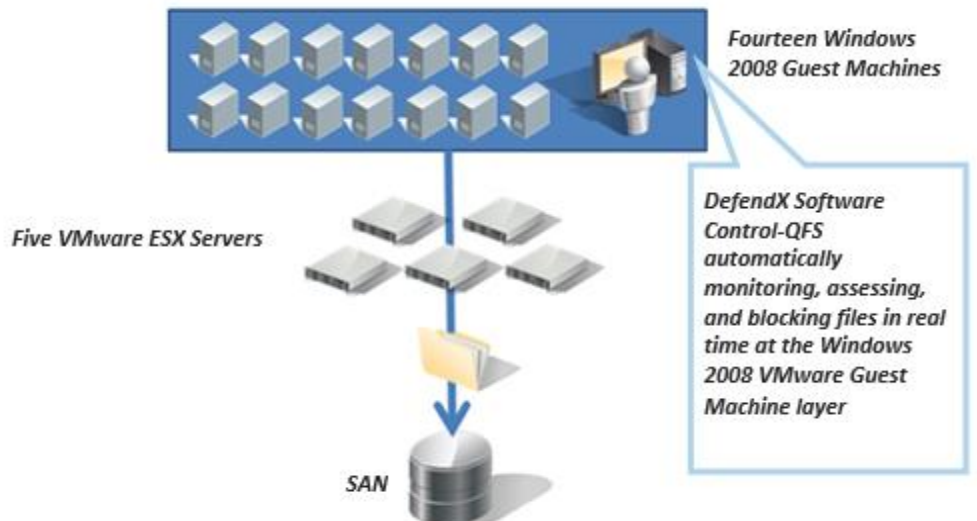
Mohamed Mohamed
Network and Server Administrator

The Faculty of Arts and Science has deployed VMware for greater flexibility and cost optimization. The VMware environment has a total of five ESX servers and fourteen guest machines to service various departments, schools, colleges, and an institution that are all part of the Faculty of Arts and Science. The primary operating system is Windows 2008, and the main application is file storage. Within the environment, data was growing rapidly, file sizes were increasing, and hazardous files could potentially be downloaded. The IT department needed an easy-to-use file data management solution not only to understand their data, but also to limit the types and sizes of files that certain departments could store. They also wanted the same solution to block certain file types that could be hazardous. The overall goal was to utilize their capacity more efficiently and secure their data from possible harm.

Solution

After installing their SAN and deploying VMware, the Faculty of Arts and Science considered different methods to help them understand, manage, and, most importantly, control and protect the data being stored. They decided that the best and proven solution was provided by DefendX Software. DefendX Software Control-QFS (Quota and File Sentinel) was immediately deployed, providing the Faculty of Arts and Science with the solution needed to understand their file data down to the individual user and to block certain departments and users from storing file types that either were not necessary for their area of focus or exceeded maximum file size limits. The Faculty of Arts and Science was also now able to block potentially hazardous files from entering the environment. Beyond optimizing their VMware environment and SAN storage, the Faculty of Arts and Science also deployed leading-edge LTO tape to provide backup and disaster recovery.

*Approximately 200 staff members
creating, storing, and retrieving files*



“We went from not being able to understand and restrict what was being stored on the SAN to having full visibility and control over what file data enters our environment. We have a very diverse group of users, so being able to define policies down to an individual client or department as to what they can and cannot store has really helped us to reduce our storage consumption, dramatically lowered the need to make additional capacity investments, and safeguarded our data. And, as an extra bonus, the solution was so simple to use that we never needed to call for support. It simply worked. As far as the Faculty of Arts and Science is concerned, DefendX Software is the best solution for managing file data.”

Mohamed Mohamed

Network and Server Administrator

Result

The Concordia University – Faculty of Arts and Science achieved many benefits by using DefendX Software file data management solutions:

- ✓ **Provided insight** with a complete view and understanding of the files being stored by each user and department
- ✓ **Delivered control** to the Faculty of Arts and Science to halt data sprawl and block extremely large or non-school-related files from consuming valuable SAN capacity and backup resources
- ✓ **Made growth predictable** with detailed analytics
- ✓ **Reduced consumption** of the SAN by 33%
- ✓ **Improved data protection and security** by blocking potentially hazardous files
- ✓ **Simplified management** by making users responsible for managing their own data
- ✓ **Lowered costs and future SAN investment** through automation, storage conservation, and using file data management from DefendX Software to ensure efficient storage utilization

The Future

The Concordia University – Faculty of Arts and Science continues to create more and more data to help support and develop individuals and their aspirations to contribute to the world’s wealth of knowledge, bridge communities, and make it possible for individuals to grow academically, professionally, and personally. The Faculty of Arts and Science continues to work with DefendX Software to discover new ways to streamline data management and help conserve and protect their data and storage capacity.

About DefendX Software

DefendX Software puts users in charge of their file data and is the only company providing file data management solutions that deliver all of the enterprise-class features needed to understand, manage, monitor, and secure file data completely. DefendX is a global leader and has been chosen by the majority of Fortune 1000 companies and thousands of customers in private and public sectors for providing leadership through superior solutions, professional services, experience, and trusted advice. DefendX delivers a single solution across the entire data storage environment, from individual files and users to an entire global enterprise across thousands of systems and sites. DefendX reduces the cost and complexity associated with the exponential growth of file data. We are located on the web at www.defendx.com.

DefendX Software Control-QFS

DefendX Software Control-QFS controls costs with automatic policy enforcement and growth management for both CIFS and NFS shares. Control-QFS enables organizations to create and enforce storage quotas and block unwanted files while improving the end-user experience by automatically communicating storage policies and providing tools to help them manage their own data and storage resource.

System administration is simplified with automated, user or department specific file data management policies to control hundreds to thousands of users across all popular platforms.

“Control-QFS provides a unique and unified management infrastructure. This is an easy-to-use interface that manages all storage resources regardless of platform or geography. Network administrators will find it easy to develop and enforce sound storage management policies using the Control Family of Products.”

Contact Us

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