

## CASE STUDY

# Winnipeg School Division Modernizes Its Network Infrastructure and Simplifies Network Management with Infoblox

### Facts & Figures

- Customer: Winnipeg School Division
- Number of schools: 79
- Number of users: 40,000
- Industry: Education

### Solutions

- Infoblox DDI
- Infoblox Grid

### Outcomes

- Solid foundation for managing large education network
- Modernized network infrastructure
- Simplified and centralized network management
- Network reliability enabling IT team to focus on priority tasks



### The Customer

Winnipeg School Division is the largest of six public school divisions in Winnipeg, the capital and largest city of Manitoba in south central Canada. Its large network serves approximately 40,000 students enrolled in grades Kindergarten through 12th grade, and spans across 79 schools located in 91 separate buildings. Winnipeg School Division's IT team is responsible for managing the entire, massive network infrastructure and for keeping all network devices, applications and services up and running at all times. It is also responsible for supporting the security and academic success of its 40,000 users online.

Kevin Druet, Senior Systems Administrator and leader of the IT team for Winnipeg School Division, is an IT veteran and expert user of Infoblox solutions for the past decade and counting. He understands better than most how to establish a solid foundation for managing large education networks efficiently and securely.

### The Challenge

Winnipeg's IT team identified the need to develop a foundation for manage its core networking applications and services and to adapt to rapidly evolving network landscapes and government regulations.

### Putting the Customer Experience and Competing Vendors to the Test

Winnipeg School District initially considered multiple competing vendors that would meet customer needs and support corporate initiatives. The customer considered a local Canadian vendor that claimed similar specs and capabilities to Infoblox. However, after Winnipeg underwent a Proof of Concept (PoC) with the competing vendor, the customer learned quickly that the competing solution was unable to resolve



the customer's pain points. Even at the beginning of the PoC, Druet recalls that "In the morning during the morning login rush, it would tank itself. It just couldn't handle the DHCP."

When considering Infoblox, the customer contacted Infoblox Customer Care in order to determine whether Infoblox could provide sufficient, timely support and a high-quality customer experience. Upon contacting Infoblox for support as a test, the customer was able to quickly reach a representative who demonstrated expertise of the customer's implementation. "Support for me sells the Infoblox product product", Druet insists. "Customer Care knew exactly what to do in order to fix the problem right away."

## A Simpler Way to Manage Core Networking Services

"We needed a simpler way to run more centralized and appliance-based DHCP with ease," Druet explains. DHCP plays an integral role in assigning IP addresses to network devices, which are critical elements of any network – especially distributed ones. Every single application and device on a network have an IP address assigned to it and cannot be accessed without one. (DHCP, along with DNS and IP address management, are core network services also known as DDI.)

Each of Winnipeg's 91 networked buildings across the school division initially had its own set of unique devices and DHCP servers, name servers and file servers. Managing those systems separately became increasingly cumbersome and this strategy was not a sustainable or secure enough solution to position the network for the future.

## Network Reliability as the Cornerstone of Any Network Infrastructure

For Winnipeg School Division, network reliability is a critical component of how to facilitate the education and success of all students and users alike. "That's the cornerstone of the network, because without it, nothing works." The failover features that are built in to the Infoblox Grid, along with the durability of Infoblox DDI appliances, provide the highest level of reliability and availability required to keep the evolving network up and running at all times for its 40,000+ students and guests. "Our Infoblox hardware is very reliable," Druet says. "We've never had a failed upgrade, and we've never ever had to phone tech support."

The IT team members now benefit from the freedom to

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**Kevin Druet,**

Senior Systems Administrator, Winnipeg School Division

upgrade network services and applications when is convenient for them. They also benefit from peace of mind from knowing that all services will remain up and running even during peak hours when schools are in session. Winnipeg's IT team can also spend more time managing more urgent tasks such and supporting users and can spend less time worrying whether the setup will work properly.

## Outcomes and Looking to the Future – Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS)

After almost a decade of successful network management as a veteran Infoblox customer and expert user, Winnipeg School Division will continue to commit to its current Infoblox implementation. The IT team is already looking to the future and working to adapt to today's rapidly evolving network and threat landscape driven by cybersecurity, Internet of Things (IoT), IPv6 adoption and other trends.

The customer is considering its options for scaling to future growth and digital transformation, including potentially moving to a data center housed at a new location and exploring the possibility of managing its network in the cloud.

In fact, the customer's move to an Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS) provider has already begun. Winnipeg School Division will likely move from an appliance to a remote site or run Infoblox virtual machines at its new site.

### For More Information

To learn more about how you can improve your organization's network reliability, simplify network management with a unified platform for your core network services and more, visit the [Infoblox website](#) or [try Infoblox](#) for free today.



Infoblox is leading the way to next-level DDI with its Secure Cloud-Managed Network Services. Infoblox brings next-level security, reliability and automation to on-premises, cloud and hybrid networks, setting customers on a path to a single pane of glass for network management. Infoblox is a recognized leader with 50 percent market share comprised of 8,000 customers, including 350 of the Fortune 500.

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