

Video transcript case study – South Bound Brook Public School District

31 May 2024

Video 1 - "Do I want to run my own DHCP server other than a Microsoft server, or find an appliance that will work for us?"

"Talking with our school board, talking with our Superintendent, coming up with solutions for this district that would make me more efficient, but also things that would allow us to say, you know, be more cost effective and save money over time. So we as a district went from Microsoft, you know, Windows laptops, Windows OS, over to Google Chromebooks and turning this district into a Google District, Google Workspace and it has worked very well.

By doing that we still maintain a Windows fleet of devices. But this allowed us to move away from Windows servers like a lot of them. By doing that we started to look at the services we were providing on those servers. So the Windows domain controllers that were running Active Directory were no longer needed because we're using a new mechanism to authenticate on our Windows devices which is something called Google credential provider. And we're also using Google to manage our Windows policies.

We're then able to remove the Windows servers from the environment, but by doing so we needed to find a solution for DHCP and DNS. OK. That's where we got to **DNSBOX** and it happened to be at this time I was planning for this, I received an e-mail from you all, a marketing e-mail. So I was like interesting. So I started to look into it, you know, do I want to run my own server other than a Microsoft server or do I want to find an appliance that will work for us? And I said let me make a phone call. Let me reach out to you know you all and it was a really good idea."

Video 2 - Why a dedicated DHCP server?

"You know, there's a lot of vetting that goes into the operating system that's running on the appliance. It's a hardened version of Linux. And it's designed to do a task and it has to be reliable and efficient at that task and easy to use. That was my other prerequisite. Making sure that if I am not here and I move on and someone sit in my chair and figure that out with very minimal training and yes, it ticked all the boxes.

Whenever I do get notifications, if there's updates available I'm pretty confident that those updates will apply flawlessly because they are vetted and tested on a very specific set of hardware.

So this is one appliance. It's sitting on our network rack. Just providing the services and it's very little resources are utilised on that appliance. I think we're well below 10% of total utilisation and we have, you know, much more space to grow if needed and that's perfect. And we did the five year option for support so yeah."

Video 3 - Why does ease of use matter for DNS and DHCP?

*"If you don't understand what you're doing in DHCP or DNS you can cripple your network. If you delete the scope for DHCP, you're done, and if you do the same with DNS your internal devices will not resolve to the domain name that you're looking to resolve to internally. So you know, I find it easier, from my phone I can connect to the **DNSBOX** internally, and if I had to make a change or add a brand new printer to a static reservation and give it a particular IP address, it's maybe 4 clicks and I'm done.*

Find the device in the network, give it its IP address, edit the static reservation and then hit apply and then restart the device or unplug and plug the device back into the network and it's very easy. Existing range or existing devices. All of our printers. Everything just worked. It migrated, we had no issues with devices losing their IP addresses, everything maintained and retained their IP addresses, it worked well."

Video 4 - What would you say to other network managers looking at DNSBOX

"I would say It's one less thing to worry about on your network. It's one less thing to manage. There's very little overhead in terms of training, there's very little times in in terms of running updates, the updates happen very quickly. When you update, let's say Windows Server, it could take 20 minutes, It could potentially bring down your network for a while so you know if you need something that's reliable.

*And you know, it resumes fairly quickly, and when you when you apply an update. Yeah, **DNSBOX** ticks all those boxes."*