BULLWALL

CASE STUDY

TRING PARK SCHOOL FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Cybersecurity Case Study Strengthening Digital Defences with BullWall Ransomware Containment

Tring Park School for the Performing Arts

Industry
Education

Location
England

BullWall Champion
Stuart Cook, IT Director

Tring Park School was constantly concerned about

RANSOMWARE
PHISHING CAMPAIGNS
IMPERSONATION ATTEMPTS

Cybercriminals are drawn to the school's sensitive data, including

FINANCIAL RECORDS
PERSONAL INFORMATION ON PUPILS, STAFF, AND PARENTS

Tring Park School chose BullWall for its

VISIBILITY
RESPONSIVENESS
SEAMLESS INTEGRATION

OVERVIEW

Tring Park School for the Performing Arts had long considered its cybersecurity approach adequate, relying on standard antivirus solutions. However, with schools increasingly being seen as 'soft targets' for cybercriminals, the school decided to elevate its cybersecurity posture. The introduction of BullWall Ransomware Containment marked a pivotal shift, significantly enhancing protection for students and staff, simplifying security management, and saving time and resources.

CHALLENGES

Tring Park School for the Performing Arts boasts an impressive alumni network, including Lily James *(Cinderella, Mamma Mia!),* Daisy Ridley *(Star Wars),* Ella Henderson (singer-songwriter), Joe Griffiths-Brown *(Hamilton, Frozen),* and Olivier Award-winning choreographer Drew McOnie. In addition to its rigorous performing arts training, the school delivers a strong academic curriculum, sending graduates to prestigious institutions such as the University of Oxford and University of Cambridge.

> WITH THE SCHOOL TRANSITIONING TO CLOUD-BASED SERVICES, ITS ON-PREMISE ANTIVIRUS SOLUTION NO LONGER PROVIDED THE LEVEL OF SECURITY OR FLEXIBILITY NEEDED.

As one of the UK's premier performing arts schools, Tring Park combines tradition with innovation—but like all educational institutions, it faces an evolving cybersecurity landscape. With the frequency and sophistication of cyber-attacks on the rise, schools have become attractive targets due to perceived vulnerabilities and limited resources. The transition to remote learning during the Covid-19 pandemic only intensified these challenges.

Although Tring Park has avoided major breaches—thanks to the proactive efforts of IT Director Stuart Cook—the school regularly encounters threats such as spam, spoofing emails, and impersonation attempts. While the school may not hold high-value assets in the traditional sense, attackers are still drawn to systems housing sensitive data, including financial records and personal information on pupils, staff, and parents. Ransomware and phishing campaigns remain a constant concern.

"The worst attacks are the persistent ones where attackers infiltrate your network and lie dormant—sometimes for months. Those are the ones that keep IT managers like me up at night," said Stuart Cook.

With the school transitioning to cloud-based services, its on-premise antivirus solution no longer provided the level of security or flexibility needed. A more modern, robust approach was required—one that could provide real-time protection, regardless of where or how staff and students accessed resources.

SOLUTION

Tring Park School chose to implement BullWall Ransomware Containment—often referred to as the "last line of defence" in cybersecurity. Unlike traditional solutions focused solely on prevention, BullWall steps in when those defences fail, halting the encryption process in the event of an attack. This containment capability helps prevent costly downtime and complex recovery operations.

"You can never be 100% secure, but you can reduce risk through better systems, training, and a balanced approach," said Stuart Cook. "We wanted a solution that protected users without restricting access to the tools and services they need."

After evaluating several options—most of them traditional antivirus products—Cook and his team selected BullWall for its visibility, responsiveness, and seamless integration into a layered security strategy.

"Most antivirus tools rely on recognising known threats. That's fine—until a new, unknown attack slips through. Unless you have a large team monitoring 24/7, those threats are easy to miss. BullWall's constant vigilance provides an essential safety net," he added.

> *The worst attacks are the persistent ones where attackers infiltrate your network and lie dormant—sometimes for months.* ***Those are the ones that keep IT managers like me up at night.***
>
> ***Stuart Cook***
> *IT Director at Tring Park School*

BENEFITS

BullWall has quickly become a core component of the school's day-to-day IT operations. Its cloud-native architecture means devices are protected no matter where they are, ensuring continuous oversight of both on-site and remote systems.

"Whether staff and pupils are in school or working remotely, BullWall is there keeping them safe," said Cook. "It's given us peace of mind and transformed how we manage cybersecurity."

With real-time monitoring and a centralised dashboard, IT no longer needs to physically inspect devices each term. This saves considerable time and allows IT resources to be focused on strategic improvements rather than routine checks.

“Knowing that our devices are secure without needing manual checks is a huge improvement. It’s streamlined security management and freed up time we can spend on other priorities,” said Cook.

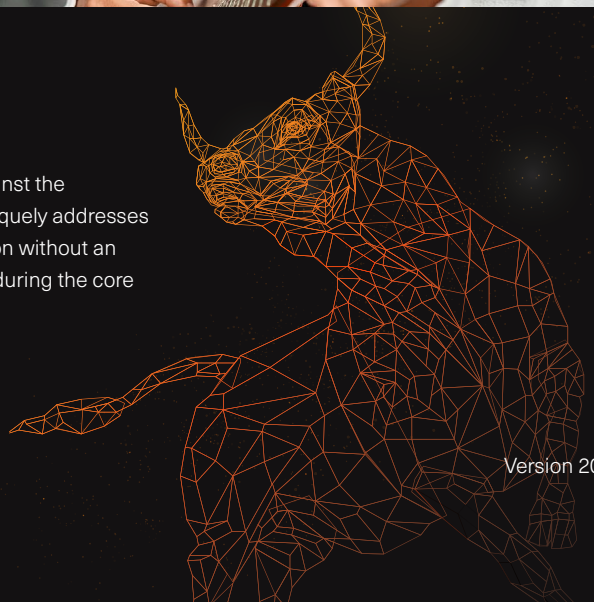
Additionally, cybersecurity insurance is becoming more complex and rigorous. What was once a simple checkbox exercise now requires demonstrable proof of robust cybersecurity infrastructure, proactive monitoring, and documented procedures. BullWall plays a crucial role in meeting these new standards.

“BullWall is a foundational piece of our cybersecurity framework,” Cook concluded. “If we’re not protecting the school—its staff, students, and families—we risk significant disruption. With BullWall in place, we’ve built a defence that gives us confidence and continuity.”

> *You can never be 100% secure, but you can **reduce risk through better systems, training, and a balanced approach.** We wanted a solution that protected users **without restricting access to the tools and services they need.***
>
> ***Stuart Cook***
> *IT Director at Tring Park School*

ABOUT BULLWALL

BullWall is the pioneer in ransomware resilience, providing robust defenses against the relentless threat of ransomware. Our focus on the latest ransomware tactics uniquely addresses critical gaps left by other security solutions. By delivering server-based protection without an endpoint agent, BullWall keeps critical IT infrastructure secure and operational during the core stages of an attack – before, during and after.

Learn more at www.bullwall.com.

BULLWALL