

Palo Alto Networks and Saasyan

Cybersecurity and Cyber Welfare Solution for K-12

Benefits of the Integration

- Adds industry-best cyber welfare capabilities to Palo Alto Networks Next-Generation Firewalls.
- Enables K-12-centric reporting and alerting, allowing schools to act before incidents occur.
- Makes classroom control simple and intuitive, saving schools time and effort.
- Enables schools to promote good digital citizenship as well as protect students from cyberbullying and self-harm while maintaining a modern, engaging learning environment.

The Challenge

The internet and other networking technologies have improved the efficiency and richness of the learning experience in many schools. However, the risks of potential network misuse or security breaches have also increased substantially, affecting resources and cost for Information Communication Technology (ICT) staff.

Palo Alto Networks Next-Generation Firewalls provide industry-leading SSL decryption, signature-based application control, user identification, web filtering, and threat intelligence capabilities. Without these, schools have limited visibility into network threats and applications in use, and no granular control over web content students can access and distribute. These are great for network security and access control but insufficient for ensuring student cyber well-being. After all, Next-Generation Firewalls aren't designed to surface students who are looking up suicide hotlines or getting constantly cyberbullied. This is where Saasyan Assure comes into the picture.

Saasyan Assure adds student cyber welfare capabilities to Palo Alto Networks Next-Generation Firewalls. Alerts and reporting allow schools to act before incidents occur, halting damage and saving lives. Assure makes reporting and classroom control simple and intuitive, saving schools both time and effort.

Thanks to deep integration with the PAN-OS® API, Assure enables schools to align and set access to the tools and the data non-ICT staff need to ensure students' cyber well-being. This makes it possible for schools to proactively safeguard students from inappropriate online content, promote good digital citizenship, and protect students from cyberbullying and self-harm while maintaining a modern and engaging learning environment.

Saasyan Assure

Saasyan's approach to student cyber welfare is fundamentally different from other vendors' solutions. Saasyan hasn't attempted to reinvent the wheel by developing its own web filter and has instead focused on adding industry-best student cyber welfare capability to the industry-leading Palo Alto Networks Next-Generation Firewalls through K-12-centric reporting, alerting, and self-service web override capabilities.

Effortless Reporting

Assure is designed for ease of use by teachers and other school staff. Reports quickly and simply display websites visited, applications and bandwidth used, searches performed, and videos viewed.

Alerting

School staff can subscribe to alert notifications to get informed when students attempt to access inappropriate websites and videos, use potentially dangerous search keywords, or are involved in negative social media activity. Artificial intelligence built into Assure helps teachers by automatically categorizing abusive content.

Self-Service Web Overrides

Self-service web filter management allows teachers and non-ICT staff to grant temporary access to sites and content that are normally blocked, allowing teaching activities to continue unimpeded.

Palo Alto Networks

Palo Alto Networks Next-Generation Firewalls offer a prevention-focused architecture that is easy to deploy and operate. Automation reduces manual effort so your security teams can replace disconnected tools with tightly integrated innovations, focus on what matters, and enforce consistent protection everywhere. Next-Generation Firewalls inspect all traffic, including all applications, threats, and content, and tie that traffic to the user, regardless of location or device type. The user, application, and content—the elements that run your business—become integral components of your enterprise security policy. As a result, you can align security with your business policies as well as write rules that are easy to understand and maintain.

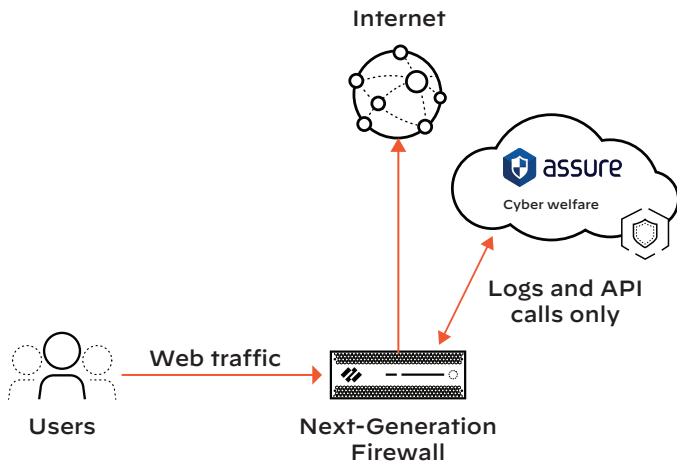


Figure 1: Palo Alto Networks and Saasyan integration

Palo Alto Networks and Saasyan

Saasyan Assure adds K-12-friendly reporting, classroom control, and pastoral care features to Palo Alto Networks Next-Generation Firewalls. This integration allows schools to go beyond Layer 7 in their mission to protect their students and network from the dangers of the online world, with no compromises.

Use Case No. 1

Challenge

Schools need to keep an eye on the online activity of students deemed to be at risk of self-harm.

Answer

Through industry-leading signature-based application control, user identification, and web filtering capabilities, Palo Alto Networks Next-Generation Firewalls allow students access to only applications and websites sanctioned by the school. The firewalls also perform SSL decryption on selected traffic. Assure analyzes log and packet capture data from the Next-Generation Firewalls to allow schools to act before incidents occur. It does this by:

1. Continuously scanning web searches performed, streaming content accessed, and chat messages sent and received by these students.
2. Identifying activities that are indicative of self-harm.
3. Notifying the school's staff about these activities.

Use Case No. 2

Challenge

Schools need to recognize and promote good digital citizenship among students.

Answer

With industry-leading web filtering and user identification capabilities, Palo Alto Networks Next-Generation Firewalls provide granular logs on the sites accessed and applications used by each and every student. Saasyan Assure uses these logs to calculate each student's web and cyber rating on a daily basis and highlights the students at risk. Schools can also allow students to log on to Assure for visibility into their own internet usage.

Use Case No. 3

Challenge

Teachers need to be able to easily and temporarily allow access to online content without relying on the ICT team.

Answer

Self-service firewall and web filter management allows teachers and non-ICT staff to grant temporary access to online content that's normally blocked, allowing teaching activities to continue unimpeded. Integration with leading Learning Management Systems allows access to be controlled within an LMS. Assure leverages the feature-rich Palo Alto Networks PAN-OS API to allow non-technical staff to perform these tasks on demand and in a self-service manner.

About Saasyan

Saasyan is an Australian owned and managed EdTech software company with a track record of providing quality solutions to the education sector. Saasyan creates open, cloud-enabled software to help schools fulfil their duty of care to students, and operate more efficiently. Its solutions range from Cyber-Wellbeing software to data integration tools that are used by teachers, students, student well-being officers and ICT staff. With a culture of continuous improvement and software integrations with major players in the Edtech ecosystem – SIS providers, LMS and timetabling software vendors, Saasyan is committed to helping private and public schools with their digital transformation journeys and duty of care.

About Palo Alto Networks

Palo Alto Networks, the global cybersecurity leader, is shaping the cloud-centric future with technology that is transforming the way people and organizations operate. Our mission is to be the cybersecurity partner of choice, protecting our digital way of life. We help address the world's greatest security challenges with continuous innovation that seizes the latest breakthroughs in artificial intelligence, analytics, automation, and orchestration. By delivering an integrated platform and empowering a growing ecosystem of partners, we are at the forefront of protecting tens of thousands of organizations across clouds, networks, and mobile devices. Our vision is a world where each day is safer and more secure than the one before. For more information, visit www.paloaltonetworks.com.