

Duarte Unified School District Protects Students while Fostering Student Engagement with Absolute Web Usage



CHALLENGES

When the COVID-19 pandemic broke and students and teachers around the globe were asked to instantly adapt to a new distance learning phenomenon, the entire Duarte USD rallied around an evolved success model. “During these challenging times, everyone stepped up for the benefit of our kids,” said Eric Ramos, Duarte USD’s Chief Technology Officer.

“Given the complexity of the situation, our goal was to make sure all of our students had access to not only devices, but also connectivity to teachers, and access to online curriculum. Not just for academics but also to support social and emotional learning and ensure connection with each other.”

Fortunately, Duarte scholars in grades 6-12 already had Chromebook™ devices through the district’s one-to-one program, and IT could track and manage them remotely using Absolute Control™. To fully stand up their Distance Learning program, Ramos and his small IT team had to quickly get devices into the hands of K-5 scholars, while also providing Wi-Fi hot spots to district families who didn’t have connectivity.

Next, Ramos and his team needed to train teachers on how to use remote learning tools effectively. Some were hesitant to use Google Classroom and other programs, so training was important.

SOLUTION

As Duarte scholars and teachers transitioned to distance learning, Ramos and his team were busy figuring out which applications would be needed in what priority order, amongst the seemingly countless freemium app offers that were coming in. For insight into overall device usage, what applications are being used, how often, and for how long, Duarte USD turned to Absolute Web Usage.

With Web Usage in place, Duarte’s IT leadership can measure how engaged their scholars are with online curriculum. The reporting also provides detailed insights

BACKGROUND:

Located in Los Angeles County of California, the Duarte Unified School District (USD) serves the educational needs of 3,400 scholars at the elementary, K-8 and high school levels. The district-wide vision is to produce 21st Century Scholars by providing students with the knowledge, skills and inspiration to be successful in college, career and life.

Because technology is one of those critical skills and a powerful learning tool, Duarte USD already had in place a robust one-to-one computing program for all students in grades K-12. Then the COVID-19 outbreak hit and forced a new and unexpected learn-from-home environment for everyone, and the district had to make some quick decisions, including what constitutes effective and efficient web usage.

RESULTS:



Proven ROI of Application Investments



Web & Application Usage Visibility



Prioritized Investigations

INDUSTRY: **Education**

PLATFORM: 



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ERIC RAMOS,
CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER,
DUARTE USD

for Duarte to navigate better learning outcomes by identifying valuable or underused learning resources in order to build future budgetary plans. The tool also highlights risky websites with potential Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA) compliance violations, ensuring Duarte school administrators can protect the safety of their students online.

RESULTS

With weekly usage reports, Duarte can now see what apps and web content scholars are focused on, not simply the websites they have open. Administrators also have visibility into how often and for how long the online learning tools are actually used. These insights have proved invaluable for avoiding freemium software offers that would negatively impact budget later and optimizing the overall technology program by addressing underutilized applications.

Duarte USD also relies on a web filter, however, the data is tedious to get through for an IT staff that is already stretched too thin and some websites can make it past the filter when they shouldn’t. Absolute Web Usage reports give IT insight into the details of what’s being viewed so they can address potential issues from the start and, for compliance purposes, demonstrate proof of compliance.

“Absolute Web Usage has provided us with much needed insight into how our district utilizes both paid and free applications within our system,” Ramos said. “The weekly snapshots allow me to dive deeper and investigate websites that have high traffic as well as those websites that seem to have bypassed our web filter. With the addition of multiple fields pulled from the G Suite admin, we can really drill down to the highest priorities at any given time, saving my team valuable time when investigating.”

Absolute Web Usage has also helped the district gain a clearer picture of application ROI. At times, administrators or teachers will request an application and the reporting snapshots can show if it’s being consistently used and therefore worth the continued investment. “I’ll go to principal meetings and explain to them, here’s what your usage looks like and if people are fully on board and love using the application,” Ramos said. “We can then revisit if it’s something they want to keep doing.”

ABOUT ABSOLUTE

Absolute serves as the industry benchmark for Endpoint Resilience, visibility and control. Embedded in over a half-billion devices, the company enables more than 12,000 customers with Self-Healing Endpoint® security, always-connected visibility into their devices, data, users, and applications – whether endpoints are on or off the corporate network – and the ultimate level of control and confidence required to support the modern enterprise. For the latest information, visit absolute.com and follow us on [LinkedIn](#) or [Twitter](#).



EMAIL:
sales@absolute.com



PHONE:
North America: 1-877-660-2289
EMEA: +44-118-902-2000



SALES:
absolute.com/request-a-demo



WEBSITE:
absolute.com