



## Castilleja School

CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY

### PROFILE SNAPSHOT

Organization:

Castilleja School

Industry:

Education

Licensed Users:

500

Abaca Solution:

EPG 1000 with  
ReceiverNet™  
Premium Service

Abaca Protected  
Customer Since:

2005

## Abaca® Email Protection Gateway™ eliminates spam, viruses, and phishes for good

Castilleja School, established in 1907, is the only non-sectarian all-girls middle and high school in the San Francisco Bay Area. Located in Palo Alto, the heart of Silicon Valley, the school educates some 400 students, grades six through twelve, with over 100 faculty members and staff.

### Technology challenge

Over the past few years, Castilleja students, faculty and administrators had experienced increasing problems with spam and viruses that were affecting the schools' email system. On average, over 85 percent of the school's total inbound email was spam, a majority of which contained offensive content. This posed a security risk and imposed a burden on IT for help desk calls related to email viruses and unsolicited bulk email. Removing this threat became a high priority.

In 2002, Steve Taffee, Director of Technology at Castilleja School, embarked on his search for an effective and efficient method to prevent spam and viruses from entering the school's email system. First he implemented a real-time blacklist (RBL) to control the spam problem, which proved ineffective and an administrative burden. He migrated to a hosted anti-spam solution, which required frequent maintenance in order to remain effective, and still blocked less than 95 percent of the unwanted email.

### Abaca — the anti-spam standard of choice

After spending three years trying several other solutions, in July 2005 Steve Taffee installed the Abaca™ Email Protection Gateway™ — virtually eliminating spam, phishes, and viruses. He chose the Abaca appliance because of its greater than 99 percent "out-of-box" effectiveness with no administrative tuning required to maintain accuracy.

"Wow! What a fantastic product! After trying several other solutions, we finally solved the problem when we installed the Abaca Email Protection Gateway. Its next-generation anti-spam filter solved the spam and phish problem for us - once and for all! It's consistently filtering at rates above 99.9% and I haven't touched it since it was installed."

"The results were immediate and impressive, eliminating spam and dramatically reducing help desk calls due to virus infections and junk email", Steve said. "Furthermore, no ongoing administration is necessary to maintain the effectiveness of the Abaca Email Protection Gateway. The appliance stops more than 99.9 percent of the spam with an extremely low rate of false positives — while also easing the load on our email system."

The Abaca Email Protection Gateway appliance is positioned between the firewall and the school's FirstClass® Communications Platform, an email system from OpenText™ widely used in the academic world.

The Email Protection Gateway acts as a mail exchange (MX) and stops spam from reaching the school's email platform, reducing the load on the system and eliminating spam, viruses, and phishes before they reach the user's email client.

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**- Steve Taffee**  
Director of Technology

### A highly-reliable and time-saving solution

Once installed, the product was easy to configure, requiring only information on the domains and servers it was to protect.

The morning after Castilleja deployed the Abaca Email Protection Gateway, spam stopped immediately.

Taffee concluded, "Combined with the appliance's web-based quarantine, daily reporting, and adaptive learning technology, the Email Protection Gateway only gets smarter and more effective the more we use it."

### About Email Protection Gateway™

Abaca's Email Protection Gateway supports thousands of users and requires no administrator tuning to deliver near-perfect filtering accuracy. Installed in front of the email server, the Email Protection Gateway blocks spam, viruses, trojans, and phishes — reducing the workload on email servers and administrators with a scalable, reliable, and flexible solution for email security. At the core is a disruptive technology that includes multiple ways to identify spam, delivering unprecedented filtering results that surpass 99 percent accuracy.

Email Protection Gateway's administration features include graphical reports, a secure web-based management console, and plug-and-play installation. End user features include per-user personalization and a searchable quarantine that has borderline emails prioritized and sorted making it easy to find potential false positives without having to scroll through pages and pages of quarantined emails.

### About Abaca®

Abaca Technology Corporation is an innovator in email protection and messaging security. Abaca's patent-pending technology, ReceiverNet™, offers an advanced approach in the fight against spam — providing unprecedented levels of accuracy and guaranteeing 99 percent spam filtration. Abaca has created a portfolio of innovative products and services based upon this core technology, thereby assuring users unparalleled messaging protection from spam, as well as viruses and phishing attacks. Abaca is a privately held company headquartered in San Jose, California. For more information about Abaca, please visit [www.abaca.com](http://www.abaca.com).

To learn more or request a free evaluation, call us at 877.462.2222 or email [info@abaca.com](mailto:info@abaca.com).



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Case Study  
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