UNICOM Engineering Brings Lightspeed Systems Bottle Rocket Appliance from Concept to Production in Less than 60 Days

Advanced Network Filtering Appliance Provides a Low-Cost Web Filtering Solutions for K-12 School District Networks

UNICOM® Engineering, Inc.
A Division of UNICOM Global

Introduction

Since 1999, Lightspeed Systems has been focused on K-12 education, providing product development, training, and support. Dedicated to serving the needs of school districts, Lightspeed Systems supports school IT staff to help make their day-to-day tasks manageable and their educational goals reachable.

Today, Lightspeed Systems solutions are used in more than 3,000 school districts representing more than 10 million students across the world. Lightspeed Systems partners with schools to make learning safe, mobile, and collaborative.

The Challenge

The Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) is a federal law designed to help ensure the safety of children accessing the Internet over school and library computers. Any organization that receives funding through E-Rate or the Universal Service Fund must certify that they are meeting the requirements of CIPA, which mandates that schools and libraries use web filtering to block dangerous or inappropriate material from minors.

However, a web filtering software or hardware solution has to do more than block inappropriate sites; it needs to balance educational Web 2.0 use with student protection and network security to provide safe access to online resources and collaboration. Meeting the specific network needs of school districts, while providing fast, easy CIPA-compliant filtering and access to engaging, educational content—all at an affordable price point—becomes a challenging endeavor.

As a result, Lightspeed Systems developed the Bottle Rocket appliance, the most advanced network filtering appliance designed to meet the needs of K-12 school districts. The latest innovation in its line of appliance-based filtering solutions, the high-speed scalable Bottle Rocket appliance provides a low-cost web filtering solution for small- to medium-sized school networks.

Architecting a High-Performance, Scalable, and Reliable Solution

Lightspeed Systems selected UNICOM Engineering, a leading provider of application platforms, deployment solutions and lifecycle support services for software technology developers and OEMs worldwide, to manufacture its Bottle Rocket school network filtering appliance.

Utilizing UNICOM Engineering's solution design and system integration services, Lightspeed Systems was able to develop and launch the appliance in less than 60 days.

The Bottle Rocket appliance is built on UNICOM Engineering's S-1200 R3 platform, incorporating Intel's advanced Xeon® (Sandy Bridge-based) microprocessor. Purpose-built for school district systems that require robust filtering capabilities, Bottle Rocket delivers an easy-to-use single point of management for educators and their IT staff.

"We chose UNICOM Engineering because we were certain that they could deliver the results we needed to hit our market window," said Rob Chambers, Vice President of Product Development at Lightspeed Systems. "UNICOM Engineering's system integration expertise allowed us to aggressively accelerate our go-to-market schedule and the company's manufacturing resources and support services allowed us to deliver a more effective design– increasing the competitiveness of our product and the value we are able to deliver to our target customers."

Based on Lightspeed Systems' award-winning Web Filter, Bottle Rocket is preloaded on an UNICOM Engineering appliance and comes plug-and-play ready for seamless installation and operation with existing school networks. The appliance uses the industry's most advanced processing and storage components to deliver CIPA-compliant network filtering and reduced data rate latencies with scalable expansion capability, featuring support for mobile devices and Lightspeed Systems' integrated collaborative learning management systems, My Big Campus.

By leveraging UNICOM Engineering's expertise, Lightspeed Systems was in the optimal position to capture increased market share by quickly addressing the problem, ultimately accelerating the sale of its products and giving the company an edge over its competition.

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UNICOM Engineering's Advanced Appliance & Deployment Expertise Speeds Time-to-Market for Customers Worldwide

The UNICOM Engineering Life Cycle Engine for Application Deployment (LEAD) model helps customers leverage its deep integration capabilities to improve appliance performance. The LEAD model is perfectly suited to help software developers such as Lightspeed Systems deliver and support a more powerful, affordable appliance solution to meet their schedules and competitive performance criteria.

"At Lightspeed Systems, education isn't an industry, it's a passion, so it was important that we work with a company that had considerable expertise in appliance development to address both the hardware and software issues that we knew would arise during this process,"continued Chambers. "Lightspeed Systems remains committed to working with schools to accomplish amazing things, both on the network and in the classroom, and values partners such as UNICOM Engineering that enable us to achieve this mission."

About UNICOM Engineering

UNICOM Engineering is a leading provider of server-based application platforms and lifecycle support services for software developers and OEMs worldwide. Through its expertise and comprehensive suite of solution design, system integration, application management, global logistics, support and maintenance services, UNICOM Engineering is redefining application deployment solutions to provide customers with a sustainable competitive advantage. More than a decade of appliance innovation with the ability to provide physical, virtual, and cloud-ready solutions makes UNICOM Engineering one of the most trusted software deployment partners in the industry. Founded in 1997, UNICOM Engineering has facilities in Canton, Massachusetts, Plano, Texas, and Galway, Ireland, and formerly traded on the NASDAQ exchange under the symbol (NASDAQ: NEI). For more information, visit www.unicomengineering.com.