# The Shifting Point: Protecting 15,000 Users with Effective Endpoint Security.

**The International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM)** is a public university in Malaysia. Headquartered in Gombak, Selangor, IIUM has six other campuses across Malaysia – two medical-centric campuses and a Centre for Foundation Studies in Gambang, Pahang; two city campuses in Kuala Lumpur, and a language and tourism campus in Pagoh, Johor.

With data for more than 15,000 employees and students to protect, IIUM decided to shift from a traditional on-premises security model to a centralized model on a cloud-based cybersecurity platform for ease of management and increased protection.

## CUSTOMER-AT-A-GLANCE

**International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM)**

**Industry**
Education

**Website**
www.iium.edu.my

**Number of Users**
15,000 employees and students

**Sophos Solutions**
Sophos Intercept X
Sophos Central Endpoint

*'Not only was the Sophos solution highly affordable in comparison to other services in the market, the entire upgrade and implementation process was seamless and easily integrated with our existing IT infrastructure.'*

Shahidah Binti Mahbob
Head of Network, Security and Support
IIUM

## Challenges

‣ Limited budget to protect a large amount of data across IIUM sites

‣ Crucial need to protect departments such as finance and HR

‣ Lack of visibility and visual analysis across all platforms and devices, making reporting difficult

‣ Constant need to filter outbound traffic and legitimacy of websites

## Why would a university need comprehensive endpoint protection?

Universities are often targeted by cybercriminals for two main reasons. Firstly, educational institutions house a wide range of sensitive data, including the personal and financial information of employees and students, medical records, and pertinent primary research data. On top of that, many universities practice an open-access culture with decentralized department control, making the education industry an easy target for unauthorized access, unsafe internet usage, and malware attacks. In addition, public universities such as IIUM run on tight budgets with the money allocated to IT departments often not proportional to the amount of data and services they are tasked to protect. This constant struggle left many of IIUM's critical endpoints unprotected.

*'Thanks to Sophos' centralized management system, we have a macro view of the entire cybersecurity network on one unified platform – making it much easier to identify and pinpoint any potential issues that arise.'*

**Shahidah Binti Mahbob**
Head of Network, Security and Support
IIUM

Topping it off was the lack of visibility and visual analysis across the institution's various platforms and connected devices – both crucial to IIUM, as the institution needs to constantly monitor for new attack vectors and exploits targeting devices and services across the network. Furthermore, reporting was time-consuming as data wasn't available on a single platform.

"We found ourselves getting too tied up with the constant need to filter network traffic and ensuring the legitimacy of websites to block potential cases cyberattacks. This proved to be quite a hassle for the team," said Shahidah BintiMahbob, Head of Network, Security and Support, IIUM.

To address these issues, IIUM wanted a cost-effective, simple-to-use, all-in-one cybersecurity solution to keep its users, data, network, and apps protected. That search led it to Sophos Intercept X, which employs a comprehensive defense-in-depth approach

to endpoint protection. With its deep learning malware detection, Intercept X is able to perform signature-based malware detection, behavior analysis, malicious traffic detection, device control, application control, web filtering, and data loss prevention.

"Critical departments such as human resources and finance need to be secured at all times as they hold very lucrative data for hackers. With more than 15,000 employees and staff records, we found ourselves constantly battling against an environment filled with new malware threats and targeted attacks. This is where Intercept X works really well as it is able to detect both known and unknown malware that tend to slip by other endpoint security tools," said Shahidah.

# Why is having an integrated platform better for organizations?

Campus IT departments need to be proactive about securing mobile and connected devices against the variety of threats that the bring your own device (BYOD) culture presents. On an average day, each student will have at least two devices connecting to the campus network – a smartphone and a laptop. With thousands of students accessing various internet sites and sharing multiple documents every second, managing the outbound traffic of the institution is a crucial element.

"With the large volume of staff and students, it's hard for us to educate everyone about the institution's cybersecurity practices and policies. As IT security officers, we need to constantly analyze and monitor outbound traffic to prevent the exfiltration of sensitive data by intruders or malicious activity from insider threats," says Shahidah. "Sophos Central Endpoint solved a major problem for us. The intuitive dashboard gives us a clearer view of the network traffic in real time. It

also helps simplify our investigations, as it actively identifies the computer names, users, and pathways between our endpoint and firewall. Moreover, this simplifies our reporting, as everything can be viewed from one unified platform. The graphs and charts generated also provide very detailed visuals."

As a result, IIUM's IT department saves more time and manpower in terms of reporting. This frees up time and resources to be focused towards enhancing internal IT infrastructure to keep up with the growth of the university.

"Universities should be vigilant with their cybersecurity practices, as they are increasingly vulnerable to cyberattacks because they have information that is very attractive to cybercriminals. It is important that our staff and students are able to trust us with all their data.  With Sophos, we are confident of protecting their information with cutting-edge technology," concludes Shahidah.

Start your free trial of
Intercept X today.

**SOPHOS**