

Delivering Quality and Secured Online Education in the Philippines

Measures to contain cyber threats must be taken to create a safe learning space for pupils as well as educators, especially when hybrid schooling is here to stay.



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Cyberattacks Threatening SEA's Online Education

Cyberattacks have thrived in Southeast Asia's digital landscape, and the education sector in the region is not spared. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) reported that as Southeast Asia moves forward to a more digitalized society, they saw a 600% rise in cyberattacks. And most of these threaten to disrupt health services and education.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, virtual learning is fast becoming a dominant mode of education. More and more students, teachers, and schools are adapting and integrating Information and Communication Technology (ICT) solutions in delivering quality education. Fast forward to today, hybrid schooling will soon be a thing, where some students will be taking half-a-day lessons in school and some online.

However, schools and online classrooms are also vulnerable to cyber threats. Experts from Checkpoint Resources reported a 28% increase in cyberattacks among members of the education sector in Southeast Asia, from mid-2020 to mid-2021.

Furthermore, cybersecurity professionals said schools and other learning institutions are often the favorite targets hackers. This is because unlike other industries, the education sector often does not have enough resources to mount robust, cybersecurity defenses.

"We found the education sector in Southeast Asia was attacked significantly more compared to other industries in the month of July (2021). Schools, universities and research centers make for attractive targets to cybercriminals because they are often under-resourced from a security perspective," said Teong Eng Guan, regional director, ASEAN and Korea, Check Point Software Technologies.

All of these underscores the importance for educational institutions in establishing a fortified cybersecurity defense and deploying strong cybersecurity strategies.



Fortifying Schools' Cyber Defenses

Face-to-face classes may soon fully return, but quality cybersecurity resources should still be made available to educational institutions in the Philippines. There are solutions in the market designed to empower schools and their IT staff in defending their virtual space and network from any threats, ultimately keeping schools a safe place to teach and learn. On top of incorporating reliable security softwares, students and educators need to be educated to practise safe measures online, like identifying phishing emails and be more mindful when downloading softwares online.

Educational institutions which are looking to boost their cybersecurity protocols and their IT team's cyber defense capacity without increasing their workload can avail of endpoint security services, such as HP Wolf Security. It deploys HP Sure Sense, an AI-driven technology, that helps unburden your IT personnel's task in scanning possible threats through its proactive cybersecurity strategies. It can detect threats that may enter through your host PC, non-office files, or through the corporate network, and eventually quarantining any malicious files.

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