



Les Kern, Director of Technology at Minooka Community High, believes strongly in sharing positive technology experiences with his peers.

Kerio MailServer Makes the Grade at Minooka Community High

Minooka Community High School in Illinois offers its students an above-average level of access to technological products and technology education. In the top 5 percent of schools in the country committed to making technology a part of its curriculum, Minooka sets aside 5 percent of its budget to service technology and maintain long-term leases. Minooka uses the latest applications like PhotoShop, Final Cut Pro and InDesign to give students access to real-world software tools.

A high-scoring high school in its district and state, Minooka educates over 1,500 students a year and sees technology as a large part of the education process. To that end, its Director of Technology wants its back-end technology hardware and software to also be of the highest quality, and selects his software and hardware vendors carefully. He believes that technology plays a large part of education, and would like his own practices to reflect that belief.

Les Kern, Director of Technology at Minooka Community High School wants everyone to know about Kerio MailServer.

One February morning, Mr. Kern decided that Kerio itself should know of his satisfaction with the product. So, he sat down to write this note to Kerio staff:

“Our Kerio subscription is up in July. I will be extending my subscription pretty much forever: Kerio MailServer without a doubt is one of the top 10 applications I have ever used in my 18 years of working with technology. KMS is easy to set up, incredibly powerful, feature-rich and flawless in our heavy daily use. I think the entire world should own it, so I’m trying to spread the word.”

Mr. Kern’s letter is only part of the story of how he selects his technology vendors, and how seriously he takes the quality of the products he chooses.





Mr. Kern works in his server room, surrounded by technology solutions he's purchased – including Apple Xserve and software like Kerio MailServer.

“Set and Forget”

Upgrading his email server became a priority when he simply realized the administration console on his mail server software, Tenon, was clunky – not to mention the performance issues of the product. Knowing that he was spending taxpayer's money, he needed a solution that wasn't too expensive, was easy to administrate and install and would stay up at all times.

It took five minutes to install Kerio MailServer the first time. When asked if he believes that KMS has lowered Minooka's total cost of ownership, he says quickly “Yes. I don't have to baby-sit. Set and forget, knowing that the product will keep plugging away.”

Spreading the Word

The K-12 education IT world is a small one, and Mr. Kern is a strong believer in telling his peers about technologies that simply work. He has made it a personal mission to tell peers and colleagues of his success with Kerio MailServer – even if the peer is using the market leader.

“There is an area school that relies on MS Exchange, and their server goes down daily. My server uptime is measured in years.

The current server has yet to even cough,” Mr. Kern relates. “I told them about Kerio, but they insist that their solution is correct. I wonder how folks justify their decisions when they are what I call willfully deaf. Also, they were chasing a ‘nasty virus’ around that got through their mail server. I have the [McAfee AntiVirus] add-on pack, and it never fails.”

Mr. Kern knows that he is lucky. As the Director of Tech at a school that respects the value of technology, he never has to justify his purchases because he is trusted by his administration. Mr. Kern believes mistakes made by administrators in the interest of searching for the least expensive solutions make for poor quality education. He realizes sharing experiences with fellow IT directors is key in helping to pave the way for good tech products in schools.

Kerio MailServer is one of those products he believes makes the grade.

Final Thoughts

Mr. Kern takes his responsibility as Director of Technology seriously. He doesn't just direct technology at Minooka, but uses his expertise to recommend products and technologies to his peers. He participates in educational technology round tables, conferences and

generally serves as a trusted ear when fellow IT directors are looking to make serious purchasing decisions.

Because of his commitment to spreading the word, Mr. Kern wants everyone to know about Kerio MailServer. Starting with a kind note to Kerio's technical support team, he will continue to sing the product's praises internally at Minooka and externally at ed-tech trade conferences.

“I'm always looking for ways to bring valuable, time saving solutions to our environment,” Mr. Kern says. “Kerio MailServer fits the bill perfectly. I can use my time doing the ‘vision thing’ for us, instead of baby-sitting a server.”

