



AVG Anti-Virus

An AVG Anti-Virus Solution for Big Thought, A Learning Partnership

As an organization that is dedicated to enriching children's lives and educational experiences through art and cultural interactions, Big Thought depends on a community of providers and supporters to deliver on its promise. That means Big Thought always has secure communication in mind.



According to Karim Virani, Director of IT for the organization, "All of our communications with contractors, artists, and sponsors — not to mention with program participants — are vital to our success. It's essential that they be virus-free." And that's why Big Thought thinks a lot of AVG Anti-Virus software.

The Challenge to Big Thought

Formerly known as Young Audiences of North Texas, Big Thought (www.bigthought.org) is a learning partnership with the mission of inspiring, empowering, and uniting children through education and the arts. Founded nearly 20 years ago, the organization has grown to include multiple arts and culture-based programs that serve children from preschoolers to teens, as well as educators, families, librarians, and early childhood caregivers.

Big Thought's premise is that a community working together can lift children up and better their lives using arts and culture as tools and catalysts. So, in addition to its full-time staff of about 30 people, the Big Thought community includes major arts organizations, about 60 providers, and more than 200 artists, as well as school boards, corporate sponsors, and individual supporters.

"Like all non-profits, Big Thought's IT spending is constrained," says Virani. "We need to make sure that as much as possible, funding we receive goes back out the door as services for children."

At the same time, Big Thought needs to function as a business, facing many of the same challenges. "We have the same need to realize efficiencies as companies with large IT budgets," he continues. "Protecting our e-mail, servers, and network from viruses is just as big a concern for Big Thought as for any for-profit business."

Finding the Solution

For quite some time, Big Thought used a McAfee anti-virus product. But with Internet and e-mail viruses becoming more numerous, sophisticated, and stealthy, Virani and Big Thought IT Administrator Rob Lynch wanted stronger virus protection than what they were getting. Doing some research on the Web, they learned about Grisoft AVG Anti-Virus software and decided to test it out.

"Right away, we saw that AVG detected more viruses than McAfee had been finding," Virani says. Both were convinced, and today AVG Anti-Virus is hard at work protecting Big Thought's MS Exchange server and e-mail.

Benefits of AVG Anti-Virus

The installation of AVG Anti-Virus at Big Thought was smooth, with virtually no glitches. Any questions that did come up were resolved instantly by Grisoft's 24x7 technical support team.

The members of the Big Thought community do a lot of file sharing, via both the organization's internal network and remote access through VPN connections. According to Virani, "Since we installed AVG version 7, we haven't had a single virus incursion into our network — not even from laptop users who move between the field and the office."

He is especially impressed by how dynamically the AVG software detects viruses. "It is more aggressive than other anti-virus products in identifying new and unwanted files that can inadvertently make their way into systems."

Lynch, whose job is the day-to-day management of AVG Anti-Virus and other systems, loves the software's administration capabilities. "AVGADMIN makes it easy for me to monitor servers and workstations, know what their status is, and remotely update them as needed — so I can be sure that all of our users have the latest virus protection in place."

In addition, both men like the automatic scanning and certification message that appears in every e-mail sent, assuring contacts that the e-mail is virus-free. "As an administrator, it gives me comfort knowing that the software is doing its job," says Virani. "And I'm sure all the people who receive e-mails from us appreciate that they are safe from viruses."

Find Out More!

To learn more about AVG Anti-Virus software and what it can do for your organization, visit www.grisoft.com or contact your local Authorized Grisoft Reseller.