



## CASE STUDY: DRIVING CUSTOMER SUCCESS: PROVIDING SECURE NETWORK ACCESS TO ENABLE SUCCESS IN LEARNING



### AT RADFORD UNIVERSITY, IT SECURITY SOLUTIONS DELIVERED THROUGH STRONG OEM PARTNERSHIPS, ENGINEERING EXPERIENCE AND BEST VALUE CONTRACTING

Radford University is a nationally recognized public institution serving over 7,000 students in the Commonwealth of Virginia with a 49% graduation rate. Known for its wide variety of undergraduate and graduate academic programs, as well as its sustainability initiatives and diverse cultural, human service, and research programs, Radford University was recognized as a National “Opportunity College and University – Higher Access, Higher Earnings” institution by the Carnegie Foundation in 2025. The University believes in the dynamics of change and maintains a strong commitment to continuous review, evaluation, and improvement of its curriculum and all aspects of the institution to meet the evolving needs of society.

Radford University, like many public educational institutions, operates with a limited budget and a broad array of stakeholders, including students, administrators, faculty, staff, parents, and school board members—each with individual objectives but one common need: reliable access to technology to enable success in learning. To ensure campus-wide access to advanced technologies, Radford University committed to investing in and evolving its IT infrastructure.

In addition to providing extensive engineering expertise, Copper River IT negotiated the highest discounts with each manufacturer on the VITA catalog.



### HIGH-PERFORMANCE NETWORK SOLUTIONS

Copper River IT reviewed Radford University’s existing Cisco firewall infrastructure and conducted a detailed technical assessment to support the migration to Palo Alto Networks firewalls. This effort included the following services:

- Network security policy review and migration
- Management system integration
- Network engineering
- QA testing

The Radford University Firewall Migration Project is an excellent example of Copper River IT’s capabilities and expertise in delivering projects of similar size and scope to customers purchasing through the VITA contract. Copper River IT’s extensive experience in network security transformations, combined with strong strategic partnerships, ensured its ability to meet and exceed Radford University’s technical, security, and operational requirements.



## CHALLENGE

Copper River IT was engaged by Radford University to provide firewall assessment and migration services across its network environment. Copper River IT collaborated with Radford University to review and validate the existing Cisco firewall infrastructure and performed a detailed security and configuration analysis to support the migration to Palo Alto Networks firewalls.

The project consisted of high-level collaboration with the manufacturer to determine the most appropriate recommended replacement, along with a phased implementation approach to coordinate with campus schedules. The Copper River IT team was involved in pre-sales architecture, hardware upgrades, professional services implementation, and training to ensure that the Radford University team could independently manage the network after project completion.

## SOLUTION

Copper River IT applied an agnostic and requirement-driven approach when evaluating Radford University's existing Cisco firewall environment and identified opportunities to enhance security, performance, and operational efficiency. Selected solutions provided to Radford University included:

- Palo Alto Networks Next-Generation Firewalls



## RESULTS

The needs of public educational institutions continue to evolve due to new student requirements, increased device usage, remote and online learning expansion, and changing operational demands across campus. The upgrades completed by the Copper River IT team ensured that Radford University remains well-positioned to support future growth and technological advancement.

Overall, Copper River IT engineers provided dedicated technical support and industry-leading assessment tools to deliver an accurate, cost-effective firewall migration—resulting in improved security, enhanced operational efficiency, and a high-performing network across campus.

