



# Culpeper County Secures Its Network, Simplifies FOIA Compliance with ForeScout CounterACT

“ ForeScout has provided Culpeper County with a single powerful device to shore up our network security, comply with Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) regulations, and protect critical government agencies from malware, viruses and cyber threats. ”

**Todd Frazier**  
Systems Administrator  
Culpeper County

Culpeper County Government in Virginia employs approximately 500 people spread across 16 locations. They utilize both wired and wireless networks. They needed an automated way to prevent non-employees from gaining access to their network.

Also, recent amendments to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) require local governments to keep public records of all office correspondence, including emails, chat sessions and peer-to-peer communications. So, like many local government agencies, Culpeper wanted to reduce the amount of data they would have to retain by restricting the use of applications such as IM and Skype.

Finally, budgets and resources were limited. Three people ran Culpeper's entire IT department. They needed a solution that was easy to deploy and economical.

## Why ForeScout?

Systems Administrator Todd Frazier and his colleague Anthony Soucek looked at a variety of options, including wireless intrusion prevention and NAC solutions from Cisco and other vendors. They found that ForeScout CounterACT was the only product that could be deployed without the need to upgrade their switches or make major changes to their network infrastructure. They chose ForeScout CounterACT because it was the easiest and most cost-effective solution that met their needs.

According to Frazier: *“We chose ForeScout CounterACT because it was a drop-in solution. It worked with what we had – all our network equipment, all our endpoint devices. No device upgrades, no massive software rollout. Our entire IT department is just three people, so we really wanted an easy solution to our problem. And the amount of visibility and control that ForeScout gave us is amazing.”*

## How ForeScout Helped

### » Ensure Network Integrity

*“Like many local governments, Culpeper County's network is spread across a variety of older buildings where they share space with private businesses. As a result, a Culpeper employee could plug their computer into a random wall jack and unknowingly create a bridge with the network of another organization. This introduced network stability problems and left the network more vulnerable to attack from worms such as Conficker. Using CounterACT, Culpeper County was able to eliminate these points of vulnerability.”*

### » Speed Regulatory Compliance

*“We needed a way to restrict peer-to-peer and instant messaging to help us comply with the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) which requires that government entities keep records of all electronic correspondence. CounterACT gave us the only practical solution, enabling us to block non-sanctioned communications such as instant messaging and POP email accounts.”*

### » Gain Visibility

*“You can't secure what you can't see. We (Culpeper County IT) wanted to be able to see every device on the network, their interconnections to other network devices, and the security posture of those devices - in real time. With CounterACT, we see everything coming onto our network and can block, allow or enforce and remediate in real-time.”*

## The ForeScout Difference

For Frazier, ForeScout CounterACT offers a multi-purpose solution to their toughest network security challenges:

*“ForeScout CounterACT is our first line of response. It enables us to eliminate unsanctioned chat and eliminate network vulnerabilities introduced with P2P and similar applications. And it serves as the sledgehammer in the back office: it allows us to stamp out any threat that may have an impact on our network. In sum: it's exactly what we needed to secure our network and simplify compliance today ... and in the future, as our network expands and changes.”*