



# CounterACT Makes the Honors Roll: Technion Institute Maintains a Healthy Campus Network with CounterACT

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**Dani Arbel**  
IT Security Manager at the Technion

*Technion, the premier institute of science and technology in Israel, manages a campus network with a dorm segment containing over 2,000 privately-owned student PCs. At the beginning of each term, about half of the “returning” student laptops could have out-of-date anti-virus, anti-spyware and OS software installed, and some might be afflicted with computer viruses and malware.*

## Why ForeScout?

According to Dani Arbel, IT Security Manager at Technion: “We needed a way to automatically validate student login credentials and check connecting laptops to ensure they comply with campus computing policies before granting access to our network. After evaluating several solutions, we standardized on ForeScout’s CounterACT network access control appliance. CounterACT offers a combined NAC and intrusion prevention solution that helps to protect our network against a constant siege of worm activity or a massive outbreak of computer viruses, either of which could bring our network services to a grinding halt.”

## How ForeScout Helps

- » Identified and controlled rogue network traffic and non-Technion devices. “CounterACT quickly detects malicious activity and network address translation (NAT) devices such as rogue routers without having an agent installed on the end system.”
- » Offered complete visibility of network and attached devices. “We have confidence in our ability to control and readily enforce campus-wide or device-specific policies, and will encounter little or no management overhead when deploying new technology around the solution.”
- » Minimized implementation costs and installation downtime. The institute needed a solution that allowed plug-and-play integration with its existing switch and hardware/software infrastructure. “CounterACT is an out-of-band solution that minimized changes to our infrastructure. It is switching-hardware agnostic and uses a mirror scan port to watch the traffic on our switch.”
- » Flexible in the actions it offers to remediate the end systems. “CounterACT can associate every end system with its access port and switch.”
- » Ease of installation and use. The product was relatively easy to install, though we did have to educate our users in its use.

## The ForeScout Difference

The campus network connects the Technion learning community with classroom and general campus services, enables vital real-time communications between students, research staff and professors, and provides invaluable access to research materials and class assignment data. Network downtime due to virus or malicious activity would impair these vital campus functions, and had become a growing concern at Technion.

“CounterACT has allayed these downtime concerns,” says Arbel. “It automatically checks connecting laptops to ensure they comply with our campus policies before granting access to our network, and helps remedy found problems without disturbing the user. It also bars access by unauthorized devices such as wireless laptops and rogue routers, which are so often the sources of entry used to tamper with a network. In sum: CounterACT has made network access control a relatively seamless, painless, transparent process for us.”