



## **Lightspeed Systems Company Background**

### **Mission: Ensuring Safe, Secure 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning**

Internet-based resources are rapidly becoming central to student learning, teacher preparation, and school business. However, as educators embrace the Internet and new Web 2.0 technologies, they encounter the tremendous challenges associated with developing and maintaining a reliable, secure and safe network.

Lightspeed Systems Inc. develops comprehensive network security and management solutions for the education market to help schools operate their networks effectively and efficiently, and provide a safe 21<sup>st</sup> century educational environment. The company also offers ongoing, collaborative support to schools through a wide range of easily accessible and affordable training programs and resources to ensure successful use of its products.

Over the past several years, network security and student safety have emerged as top priorities for education leaders as they confront the rapidly growing number and sophistication of security threats facing schools both inside and outside the education system. While the Internet exposes schools to financial and legal risks from security and safety threats such as viruses, spam, malware, online predators, and cyberbullies, it also provides rich, engaging, and collaborative learning opportunities that students need to be successful in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Lightspeed Systems understands the unique needs of schools, and designs solutions that help administrators manage the rapidly changing, increasingly complex nature of network security and administration. Lightspeed Systems' solutions enable districts to manage Internet access; enforce acceptable use policies; comply with state and federal requirements for e-mail archival, CIPA and other regulations; protect themselves from security breaches; and minimize legal liabilities.

The company's software is used in more than 1,500 school districts in the United States, United Kingdom and Australia to protect over 5 million students.

### **History: Discovering its Core Mission and Commitment to Education**

Based in Bakersfield, Calif., Lightspeed Systems was established by Rob McCarthy, the company's current CTO, as McCarthy and Associates, and was later incorporated in 1984 as MacSoft, which focused on integrating disparate systems, namely Wang minicomputers and PCs. Through several company transitions, the company changed its name to Lightspeed Systems, and to keep pace with the rapidly changing technology industry, became an Internet service provider with more than 20,000 customers throughout California. As a result, Lightspeed Systems tackled network traffic

management issues on a daily basis and developed IP Magic Technology™, a single solution that addressed several network management issues with an object-based software architecture.

By 2000, it was clear that Lightspeed Systems' technology was an ideal fit for K-12 educational IT administrators who had to manage complex, growing networks with a very limited IT staff. Software that was easy to install on familiar Windows®-based servers was well received by the company's education customers. Since then, the company has been developing comprehensive network security and management software specifically for schools and districts.

**Success: Growing the Company While Helping Schools Excel**

Lightspeed Systems offers a growing line of network security and management products, including its flagship product, Total Traffic Control, as well as training and support services to ensure the protection of school networks and students. As modern networks change, and Internet security grows increasingly complex, Lightspeed Systems will continue to develop innovative, easy-to-use applications for schools and back them with ongoing technical support. Lightspeed Systems is committed to helping educators adopt new Web technologies to provide valuable, interactive learning experiences, while protecting students from online dangers and shielding school networks from attacks.

For the past two years, Lightspeed Systems has been recognized on the *Inc.* 5,000 list as one of fastest-growing private companies in America. In addition, Lightspeed Systems' products have received several awards, including *eSchool News* 2006 Readers' Choice Award for Best School Network Administration Software, *Redmond* 2007 Readers' Choice Award for Best Bandwidth/Traffic Monitoring Product, and *Scholastic Administrator's* 2008-2009 Best in Tech Award for Security Management. The company was also listed as one of the "Emerging Tech Vendors" in *CRN* magazine's annual list of channel-friendly companies in 2008.

For more information, call 661-716-7600, or visit [www.lightspeedsystems.com](http://www.lightspeedsystems.com).

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