

Basic Hosted Firewall – Course Outline

Updated Fall 2026

Intended Audience:

- Technical staff of educational institutions working with MERLIN

Session Length:

- 60mins / 1 hour

Participant Threshold:

- Requires a minimum of 10 participants to proceed

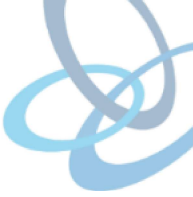
Course Description:

Lead by the MERLIN technical team; this session will be a “deep dive” on how to fully utilize the firewall options available to clients. Based on a Palo Alto Networks firewall, it includes all the protection of MERLIN’s vulnerability protection service and provides the following additional benefits:

- Layer 7 next-generation firewall technology which provides application visibility. Clients can identify and classify application traffic from applications such as Facebook, YouTube, Dropbox, iTunes, X (formerly known as Twitter), FaceTime, Pinterest, Instagram, BitTorrent, and Netflix.
- User identification through the firewall’s User ID functionality. This connects to a division’s user directory and provides the ability to apply application control rules to the appropriate users and groups.
- Application control by user or group which provides flexibility on how, when, and to what destinations they are allowed. Applications can be blocked, allowed, or limited based on the application’s category and the educational need.
- Visibility of internal device addresses increases the client’s ability to track down and identify the source of malicious traffic and unwanted applications.
- Content filtering by user or group allows for multiple unique content filtering profiles within a single school or site.
- Secure VPN with MFA access to internal systems for staff.
- Advanced vulnerability, anti-virus, and spyware protection **

Did You Know?

MERLIN can customize training events for your individual needs! Reach out to us to share more about the training needs of your IT, teaching, administration, or support staff.



Sessions Outcomes:

At the end of this session, participants will be able to:

- Have a better understanding of the tabs available to them
- Know how to switch between Virtual instances on the firewall
- Better understand how to use and manage various objects
- Understand the life span of a packet as it traverses the firewall
- Understand how to use time schedule to allow or deny traffic
- Use policy optimizer to clean up their ruleset
- Quickly find rules that are not logging traffic for troubleshooting and investigation
- Use the monitor tab to troubleshoot traffic flow
- Use the ACC tab to get quick real time data

**Agenda content is consistently updated to reflect the most current information at the time of delivery.

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