



# CASE STUDY

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# Focus on data protection: Pupil AG relies on Link11 for comprehensive DDoS protection

Swiss ed-tech pioneer Pupil AG relies on Link11 to ensure the data security and availability of its school management software.

In 2019, the German government invested 5 billion euros into digital education infrastructure and expanded the „DigitalPakt Schule“ by a further 1.5 billion euros in 2020. Since then, an extensive range of digital solutions from various edtech companies have been integrated into the education system. This is not just about digitally supported learning or communication between teachers and pupils, but also about simplifying everyday school life.

Digital evolution in education: PUPIL is revolutionizing school management

The declared mission of Pupil AG is to simplify everyday school life with digital solutions. The St. Gallen-based company is transforming the way Swiss schools work with its holistic school management software. PUPIL is an all-in-one solution for school administration, assessments, and support planning as well as communication with parents. More than 45 modules enable centralized data management that can be accessed by multiple user groups. From administration to teacher communication, PUPIL offers a comprehensive solution for all day-to-day school requirements.

Many practical modules make everyday school life easier and the whole thing is networked with smart data management. „Our understanding of optimization goes beyond the digitalization of school administration processes,“ explains Lukas Lehmann, co-founder of Pupil AG.

„The integrity and protection of data as well as PUPIL’s IT security must be guaranteed at all times. In view of the increasing digital threats, comprehensive DDoS protection is an indispensable security measure.“ Such an attack could have a significant impact on the availability and smooth operation of the school management software and significantly reduce its efficiency.

Although digital transformation in the education sector brings numerous innovative solutions, it also brings new challenges. One notable factor is that PUPIL collects a lot of sensitive data, such as the attendance or behavior of students. For this reason, the location of the data as well as the protection of this data is of central importance.

We must consider this alongside that fact that cyberthreats are increasing every day. The effects of this were felt in Switzerland in the early summer of 2023: during a live video broadcast of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in front of the Swiss parliament, there were serious DDoS attacks on local authorities and companies. The attacks on parliament were a warning signal to take better precautions.

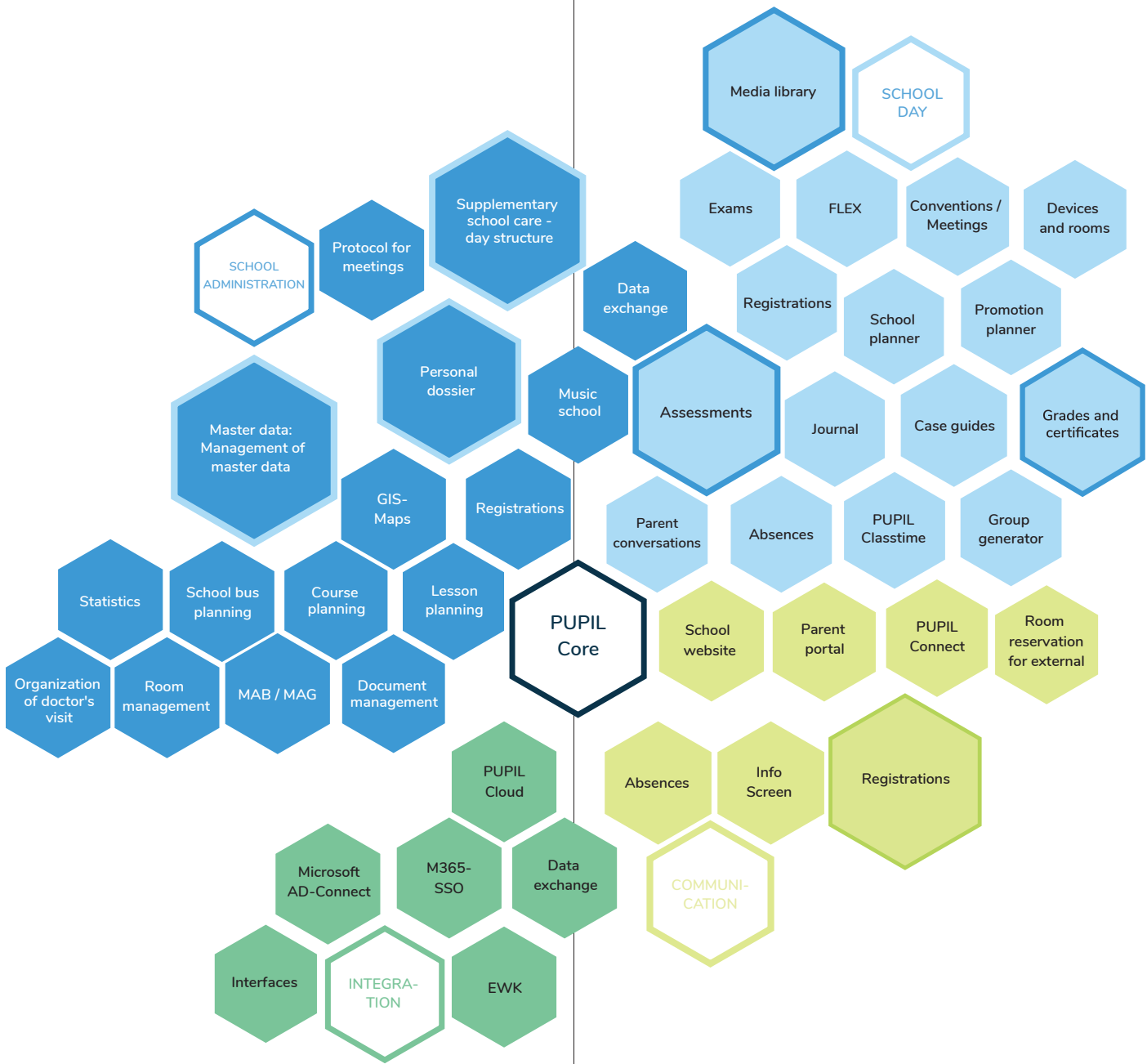
Digitalization with vision: Why Pupil AG relies on innovative DDoS defense

When it came to choosing a DDoS protection provider, the selection of Link11 was based on several factors. First, Link11 impressed during the evaluation phase as an innovative and powerful player in the DACH region. Pupil AG also had clear requirements for its DDoS protection solution to comply with the new data protection regulations in Switzerland. This included data protection compliance and a scrubbing center located in Switzerland. Intensive and personal support during the onboarding process also played a major role. The specific requirements of PUPIL as a school management software required a solution that was flexible enough to optimally support the individual use case. Overall, Link11 impressed with its innovative technology and regional availability.

In addition to the successful implementation of individual requirements, the close cooperation with Link11’s Security Operation Center (SOC), the individual onboarding process, and the robust technical features such as scalability, performance, and short loading times were among the deciding factors.

Pupil AG uses Kubernetes to host all applications. As an open-source platform, it orchestrates containerized applications and automates deployment and scaling. Kubernetes guarantees robust protection through integrated security mechanisms. This agile architecture can be easily adapted to variable business requirements while minimizing administrative overhead.

One of the technical challenges was finding a DDoS protection solution that supported dynamic scaling, rule setting, and automation within Kubernetes. Link11’s solution integrated seamlessly into PUPIL’s hosting platform, providing the required scalability and customization.





The web-based DDoS protection solution not only offers precise and fast protection against attacks, but also allows Pupil AG to focus on its core business. „With Link11, we have a flexible, cloud-based security solution and a partner with 24/7 customer service that supports us with all our questions,“ underlines the co-founder of Pupil AG.

#### **The future of school administration: shaping digital solutions together**

In the era of digital education, where schools are increasingly relying on powerful management software such as PUPIL, the importance of robust and privacy-compliant DDoS protection is more essential than ever. The comprehensive school management software PUPIL is not just another digital application in the school system. Rather, it is an indispensable companion in everyday school life. The software

integrates various functions - from administration to teacher communication - in one place.

„The collaboration reflects the successful implementation of individual requirements,“ explains Jürgen Schreiner, Account Executive at Link11. „Our cloud-based DDoS protection solution harmonizes perfectly with the innovative approaches of Pupil AG, especially with regard to Kubernetes. The flexibility, scalability and fast performance of our DDoS protection allows Pupil AG to focus on the essentials - the digitalization of schools in Europe.“

The partnership with Link11 not only protects the Swiss school management software PUPIL against DDoS attacks, but it also provides a flexible and customizable security solution that strengthens the focus on digital school processes.

***“With Link11, we have a flexible, cloud-based security solution and a partner with 24/7 customer service that supports us with all our questions.”***



**Lukas Lehmann,**  
Co-Founder, Pupil AG



**Pupil AG** offers holistic school management software that provides an all-in-one solution for school administration, assessments, support planning, and parent communication. With over 45 modules, PUPIL enables centralized data management that can be accessed by the school administration, school board and authorities, and teachers. The software makes everyday school life easier by integrating various functions in one place. From administration to teacher communication, PUPIL offers a comprehensive solution for the requirements of everyday school life.

**Link11** is a specialized global IT security provider and protects infrastructures and web applications from cyberattacks. Its cloud-based IT security solutions help companies worldwide to strengthen the cyber resilience of their networks and critical applications and avoid business disruption. Link11 is a BSI-qualified provider for DDoS protection of critical infrastructure. With ISO 27001 certification, the company meets the highest standards in data security.



