

**CASE STUDY**

# CAWTHRON SELECTED M86 MAILMARSHAL SECURE EMAIL GATEWAY AND M86 WEBMARSHAL FOR MANAGEABILITY AND SECURITY

**Client:**

Cawthron Institute

**Website:**

[www.aisnsw.edu.au](http://www.aisnsw.edu.au)

**Number of Users:**

145

**Requirements:**

Email and Internet Filtering  
and Security

**Solution:**

M86 MailMarshal and  
M86 WebMarshal

## BACKGROUND

Cawthron is New Zealand's largest, private, independent research organization. It provides research-based solutions to enable the sustainable management and development of the country's coastal and freshwater systems and resources for the benefit of the region and the nation.

Cawthron currently operates from three locations in New Zealand: Nelson, Blenheim and Cawthron's Aquaculture Research Park located just outside of Nelson. The majority of its 145 full-time and 35 part-time employees are dependent on the availability and security of the company's email and Web resources to communicate with the local and international scientific communities and each other. Its scientists rely on Internet and email availability to access and share scientific data quickly and easily.

Over the past seven years, Cawthron's full-time staff numbers increased from 90 to 145. In turn, the organization's email and Internet requirements also changed. Cawthron required more advanced email and Internet content security solutions to control rising spam volumes and to protect itself from increasingly malicious email and web-borne threats.

## THE CHALLENGE

Cawthron staff increases led to the company's bandwidth consumption swelling to 50 GB a month. Increased staff use of email and the Internet meant the organization was more exposed to email and web-borne threats, such as spam, phishing, spyware, viruses and DoS (Denial of Service) attacks. The threats themselves had also evolved and posed far greater security risks to the organization.

Cawthron's IT staff were investing one to two hours everyday managing ever-increasing spam and spyware issues. According to Cawthron's Systems Administrator, Rob Bell, around 60 percent of the 2,000 emails the company received daily were spam.

"Removing spam is the bane of my job," said Rob Bell. "Just keeping on top of it was a job in itself. Managing the spam epidemic is costing the organization thousands of dollars in lost productivity and bandwidth."

Spyware was also an issue for Cawthron. Its previous anti-spyware desktop solutions could successfully identify spyware, but couldn't always remove it automatically. Bell would have to manually check that all identified spyware had been successfully removed and would often have to remove it himself.

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—Rob Bell  
Systems Administrator  
**Cawthron Institute**  
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Escalating bandwidth consumption was also proving costly and risky to the organization. According to Bell, Cawthron’s unrestricted Internet use policy had the potential to cause harm to the company.

“Our employees are welcome to use the Internet and email for personal use. But some Internet activity, such as streaming audio from radio sites, was causing a big drain on our bandwidth capacity,” says Bell. “We needed a solution that would automatically block access to websites containing offensive or malicious content and allow us to enforce our Acceptable Use Policy more effectively, without significantly compromising the user’s Internet experience.”

In April 2007, Cawthron deployed M86 MailMarshal SEG and M86 WebMarshal solutions.

## **POLICY CONTROL AND SECURITY**

Cawthron selected M86 MailMarshal SEG and M86 WebMarshal because of their highly granular content filtering capabilities, advanced control features such as spam categorization, anti-virus and anti-spyware scanning technology; and automated updated URL filter lists.

Since the introduction of M86 MailMarshal SEG, Cawthron’s spam capture rate at the gateway has increased by more than 20 percent. It is now identifying and blocking 99 percent of spam at the gateway. This has resulted in a dramatic drop in bandwidth consumption, from 50 GB a month to 40 GB.

“Instead of receiving daily user complaints about spam volumes and false positives, staff are saying, ‘I had my first bit of spam today in weeks.’ I am no longer spending a couple of hours a day dealing with spam-related inquiries and manually updating URL lists in order to control it. Now I can focus on more important tasks,” says Bell.

M86 WebMarshal’s third-party anti-spyware support also saves Cawthron’s IT team considerable time and delivers an extra level of security to its network. M86 WebMarshal integrates with the anti-spyware solution to ensure spyware is identified and removed at the gateway rather than the desktop.

“We believe in layered security. We use anti-virus, firewall and spyware products on the desktops. The integrated anti-virus and anti-spyware capabilities M86’s software offers gives us an extra layer of defense at the gateway,” says Bell.

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—Rob Bell

Systems Administrator  
Cawthron Institute

## ADVANCED AUTOMATION AND CONTENT CONTROL

The M86 Web Filter Database that integrates with M86 WebMarshal has also delivered significant time savings to Cawthron’s IT team. When a new Web threat or website containing malicious content is detected, M86’s Web Filter Database is updated to Cawthron’s servers automatically. This not only reduces administration, but delivers market-leading rapid response categorization.

“One of the most impressive features is the automated URL filter list. It is now totally automated, saving me about a day a month. The M86 Web Filter Database is the largest and most comprehensive on the market and includes URLs that I would never have found,” says Bell.

Using M86 WebMarshal now automatically enforces its Acceptable Use Policy related to Web access and Internet usage, while securing and protecting the organization against viruses, spyware and other forms of malicious code.

In addition, Cawthron also manages the uploading and downloading of websites, including webmail. The technology’s reporting functionality also enables Cawthron to monitor and control the uploading of content to web-based sites, including external blogs, social networking forums and industry chat rooms.

“We now have the tools that let us form and enforce effective policies around Internet usage to protect users and the company,” says Bell.

## TRY BEFORE YOU BUY

M86 Security offers free product trials and evaluations.

Simply contact us or visit:

[www.m86security.com/downloads](http://www.m86security.com/downloads).

## ABOUT M86 SECURITY

M86 Security is the global expert in real-time threat protection and the industry’s leading Secure Web Gateway provider. The company’s appliance, software, and Software as a Service (SaaS) solutions for Web and email security protect more than 25,000 customers and 26 million users worldwide. M86 products use patented real-time code analysis and behavior-based malware detection technologies as well as threat intelligence from M86 Security Labs to protect networks against new and advanced threats, secure confidential information, and ensure regulatory compliance. The company is based in Irvine, California with international headquarters in London and development centers in California, Israel, and New Zealand. For more information about M86 Security, please visit: [www.m86security.com](http://www.m86security.com).



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