



CASE STUDY

INSTITUTE OF DIRECTORS CONSOLIDATES WEB SECURITY USING THE M86 SECURE WEB GATEWAY

Client:
Institute of Directors (IoD)

Website:
<http://www.iod.com>

Requirements:
Reduce resources and costs associated with Web security while increasing protection

Solution:
M86 Secure Web Gateway

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—Richard Swann
IT Infrastructure Manager
Institute of Directors

BACKGROUND

Founded in 1903, the Institute of Directors (IoD) is an independent association of more than 45,000 company directors who represent the business community when UK government reviews policy, legislates or seeks input from privately-owned organizations. The association also promotes professionalism in the boardroom. IoD members include CEOs of large corporations and entrepreneurial directors of start-up companies.

Headquartered in three London buildings, the IoD also maintains 10 regional offices throughout the UK which are connected to headquarters via a hardware-based VPN. From there, all Internet access and Web browsing is routed via a single point-of-presence. An efficient and secure information and communication infrastructure is critical for supporting its large operations. And, as a leader in the business community, the IoD cannot afford to compromise when it comes to Web security.

THE CHALLENGE

The IoD security framework grew over time into three separate security infrastructures using several disparate solutions (anti-spam, anti-virus, home-grown URL filtering, VPN and different proxies). To streamline business operations, reduce management overhead and ultimately conserve resources, the IoD decided to consolidate its existing security infrastructure into one solution, with a single point of management, provisioning and reporting.

The IoD needed the ability to define specific security policies for different groups of users. For instance, the Information and Advisory Service staff needed access to the Internet without restrictions in order to handle members’ call-in research queries. The IoD previously routed user groups through different proxies, creating management issues and adding maintenance overhead that taxed its limited IT resources. The IoD also maintained its own lists of permitted and forbidden URLs.

With respect to inappropriate content, the IoD has a very strict Internet usage policy. The ability to enforce this policy using a commercially available product was seen as a

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major advantage, not to mention the associated reductions in administration overhead.

Growing threats from ActiveX and Java-based malware as well as the need to control and manage access to websites were of primary importance to Richard Swann, the IoD’s Head of IT.

“Various groups within the organization require access to websites for research, which presented a management headache due to so many different proxy servers,” said Swann. “We needed a solution that would protect our staff and members from identity theft and prevent malware from infiltrating our network.”

THE SOLUTION

The IoD chose to implement the M86 Secure Web Gateway to consolidate its Web security infrastructure. As a satisfied customer of M86’s other solutions since 1999, the IoD hardly considered other options. “M86 Security is the market leader with proven security solutions, so why look elsewhere?” said Swann.

Moreover, M86 was able to offer IoD an attractive migration plan to continue to benefit from superior Web security on a high-performance appliance. The M86 Secure Web Gateway delivers the comprehensive Web security in an all-in-one, self-managing appliance. It integrates multi-layered protection to prevent all malware attacks including new and targeted advanced threats.

The M86 SWG identifies and blocks malware—before anti-virus vendors have issued an update—a fact that the IoD and Swann had come to rely on over the last several years. Plus, its Dynamic Web Repair™ technology removes malicious code from Web pages and delivers the “clean” content to users, enabling them to continue their jobs without interruption.

“We are very conscious of the potential dangers inherent in ActiveX and Java which can be used to exploit software vulnerabilities. M86’s proactive solutions excel in blocking these types of sophisticated attacks,” said Swann.

In addition to M86’s proven security technology, the efficiencies created through managing Web security through a single appliance, as well as granular policy management, were key factors in the IoD’s decision.

As a result of the migration, IoD was able to streamline its security architecture from several different solutions to a single appliance for Web and proxy. The transition to M86’s solution freed up one full IT resource for other important tasks.

“Installation was very simple and intuitive. Once you have set up your rules and policies, they can be tested in ‘X-Ray Mode’ before being fully applied thereby ensuring the rules are set correctly the first time. Overall, it took just two weeks to install, configure and test the device prior to go-live. Apart from the occasional tweak, we’ve hardly had to manage the device at all since it’s roll-out. Automatic updates ensure that any new Internet-borne threats are handled without any intervention on our part,” said Swann.

BUSINESS BENEFITS

“Since deployment of the M86 Secure Web Gateway, no staff systems have been infected by Web-borne worms, viruses or malware. It has eliminated the need for multiple proxies, because it’s able to assign rules according to Windows Active Directory membership,” said Swann.

Automated download of security updates made the system more “hands-off” than was previously the case, saving time and money. It also helped increase productivity by enabling users to safely

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access the websites they need. Sites that are altogether inappropriate for business use are blocked, eliminating unproductive Web activities.

Swann commented, “We simply spend less time managing multiple platforms. This reduces the complexity and resources necessary in managing Web security.” It also resulted in reduced patch management thanks to M86’s “hardened” OS and automatic updates – with the added benefit of no third-party OS license fee.

“Certainly in terms of effort and man-hours, we have saved a significant amount. Prior to the introduction of this solution, we had spent more time addressing Web security issues on an ad-hoc basis than was acceptable. Now we can spend more time dealing proactively with the business’s requirements instead of concerning ourselves with security issues.”

CONCLUSION

“M86’s proactive protection against emerging malware threats has allowed us to concentrate on core business activities without using so many resources to handle security incidents and clean infected computers,” concludes Swann. “The M86 Secure Web Gateway appliance provides the IoD with the same level of security and content management deployed by large enterprises, with a single point of administration and reporting, at an affordable price for an organization of our size.”

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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 hardware, virtual 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.



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