



Britannic Assurance Ensures Internet Security with MailMarshal and WebMarshal

Client:

Britannic Assurance

Web Site:

N/A

Number of Users:

1000

Requirements:

Email and Internet Filtering

Filtering Solutions:

MailMarshal and WebMarshal

“I really can’t say a bad thing about MailMarshal, it delivers exactly what we require.”

Karl Barton

Senior Systems Engineer

Computer Centers Financial Services

Financial and service companies, by their very nature gather and maintain personal information. Protecting that information from unauthorized access and use is a key requirement in today’s security conscious environment.

Background

Britannic Assurance, a business group within Britannic Group PLC, one of the UK’s largest and most diverse financial services companies, has more than 1000 users on its Ethernet network. Like all modern organizations, Britannic Assurance needed to ensure the integrity of their network and databases as well as enforce their appropriate use policy. All across the UK and Europe, computer viruses and problems with indiscreet email and rampant non-business web surfing have plagued the financial services industry. Britannic Assurance wanted to ensure that they stopped these issues cold before they affected their network.

“We had a number of requirements when we began our search for an Internet and email content security package,” says Karl Barton, Senior Systems Engineer with Specialist Computer Centers under contract to Britannic Assurance. “We had developed a written email and Internet use policy and wanted a way to enforce the various provisions of the policy in areas such as downloading unauthorized programs or excessive personal use of email. Viruses were also an issue for us...we wanted protection from the growing threat of worms and their ilk. We also wanted an extra level of security to prevent unauthorized use of the network and access to sensitive databases. With these requirements in mind, we looked at the market to see what was best for our network.”

Britannic Assurance operates a dynamic network. Based in modern custom-built premises in Wythall, North Worcestershire, Britannic Assurance reflects the growth strategy of its parent, Britannic Group, and is continually adding new products and services via both acquisitions and internal development. In fact, up to 150 new network users are to be brought online at Wythall Green as a result of Britannic’s acquisition of Alba Life. So scalability was a key factor as well.

“Our configuration at the time consisted of approximately 1000 users on the network,” says Barton. “Most client applications were delivered via a thin client model based on Microsoft Terminal Server. Some 130 or so NT4 servers provided the grunt to run the TCP/IP switched Ethernet network. The bulk of our databases reside on UNIX and ICL mainframes. Because of our business as a financial services company, much of this data is of a personal nature, so we had to take reasonable steps to ensure that this private information stayed private.”

Britannic tested a number of alternative programs as part of their acquisition program. “We looked at inexpensive programs that had low initial costs but didn’t deliver the functionality we required,” says Barton. “We also looked at expensive programs that might have had fancier interfaces but they still didn’t deliver. So when we installed the trial versions of both WebMarshal and MailMarshal, we knew what to look for.”

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“For the trial,” says Barton, “we installed the programs on the server and set the rules. For MailMarshal we routed SMTP mail following our parameters. For WebMarshal, we limited user HTTP requests. Both evaluations turned out very well so we went ahead and purchased the full licenses.”

Key Reasons for Selecting Marshal8e6

- Delivered required features at a reasonable cost
- Structure of rules is very good and easy to customize
- Active Session allows network administrator to monitor URLs being viewed

Key Benefits for Britannic Assurance

- Effective enforcement of appropriate use policy for web browsing and email
- Blocks inbound mail containing malicious viruses
- Performed 100% without any problems since installation

Conclusion

Britannic is pleased with the results. “MailMarshal has performed 100% without any problems since installation,” says Barton. “We especially like the integration with Sophos Antivirus...we love the auto update of IDE files via the inbound rule that looks for new IDE file emails. The structure of the rules is very good and easy to customize. Similarly, WebMarshal is much better than our previous product. We like the ‘Active Sessions’ view with the ability to see what URLs are being viewed. The rules work very well and are easy to modify as we wish. We also like the ability to learn via text censor scripts.”

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Karl Barton, Senior Systems Engineer with Specialist Computer Centers Financial Services.

About Marshal8e6

Marshal8e6 is a global provider of Secure Internet Gateway products for organizations of all sizes. Marshal8e6 is the only security company capable of delivering comprehensive content security across multiple delivery platforms, including software, appliances and Software-as-a-service (SaaS). The company’s complete security portfolio delivers the tools necessary to manage and secure email, Web and the endpoint as well as protect against data leakage. Today, more than 16 million end users in more than 20,000 companies in 96 countries rely on Marshal8e6 solutions to protect their businesses at the email and Web gateway.



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