



Britannic Assurance Ensures Internet Security with M86 MailMarshal and M86 WebMarshal

Client:

Britannic Assurance

Web Site:

N/A

Number of Users:

1,000

Requirements:

Email and Internet Filtering

Filtering Solutions:

M86 MailMarshal and M86 WebMarshal

“I really can’t say a bad thing about M86 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 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 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 M86 MailMarshal we routed SMTP mail following our parameters. For M86 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 M86

- 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. “M86 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, M86 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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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 24,000 customers and over 17 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 advance threats, secure confidential information, and ensure regulatory compliance. The company is based in Orange, California with international headquarters in London and development centers in California, Israel, and New Zealand.

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Corporate Headquarters
828 West Taft Avenue
Orange, CA 92865
United States
Phone: +1 (714) 282-6111
Fax: +1 (714) 282-6116

International Headquarters
Renaissance 2200
Basing View, Basingstoke
Hampshire RG21 4EQ
United Kingdom
Phone: +44 (0) 1256 848 080
Fax: +44 (0) 1256 848 060

Asia-Pacific
Millennium Centre, Bldg C, Level 1
600 Great South Road
Ellerslie, Auckland, 1051
New Zealand
Phone: +64 (0) 9 984 5700
Fax: +64 (0) 9 984 5720

Version 03.30.10