



M86 Security Provides The Cure for St. Jude's Internet Filtering and Reporting Needs

Client:

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

Web Site:

www.stjude.org

Requirements:

Web Filtering and Reporting

Solutions:

M86 Web Filter and Reporter

“M86 Security has a great product for any organization facing policy enforcement and/or compliance challenges. The system keeps running, monitoring, recording, and blocking, which is exactly what a customer would expect.”

Monroe Wesley
 Manager of Information Security,
 St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

Profile

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital is the world's largest childhood cancer research center and America's third largest healthcare charity. Doctors from all over the world refer their patients to St. Jude because of its reputation as a premier center for the treatment of catastrophic diseases in children, primarily pediatric cancer. The hospital employs scientists from all nations and is proud to claim a Nobel Prize winner among its ranks. In addition, St. Jude is renowned for its exceptional care and devotion to children and their families: no child is ever turned away because of a family's inability to pay. To date, the hospital has treated more than 20,000 children from across the United States and 80 foreign countries.

The Challenge

In 1999, St. Jude developed a policy outlining the acceptable use and intent of use for their Internet connection. Shortly after this policy was activated, the Information Security Department was asked to install and administer a pre-purchased Internet Monitoring and Filtering system to help ensure compliance of this policy. Manager of Information Security, Monroe Wesley, remembers the difficulties of their first monitoring/filtering solution. “St. Jude had purchased Web monitoring software prior to my arrival to the organization. The product was difficult to administer and it was unsuccessful at detouring large amounts of inappropriate activities. We quickly began evaluating other Web monitoring solutions.”

In their process of evaluating the market of Web monitoring/filtering products, St. Jude first selected three of the leading products that fit their requirements. This selection process was followed with an equal bench-test to determine which product was superior for their needs. Their choice was the M86 Web Filter and Reporter (M86 WFR). “It was very clear M86 was the product St. Jude needed and wanted. The product was superior to the competition and we have been pleased with our decision to change,” Wesley adds.

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital is required to comply with HIPAA regulations, and although the regulations do not specifically define a Web monitoring and filtering solution should be administered, they do encourage taking necessary measures to protect patient information. One of the ways St. Jude uses the M86 WFR to help protect the organization is by evaluating Web site classification, monitoring for access attempts, and blocking known malicious code, spyware, and virus type sites.

St. Jude is a research hospital where the scientific teams continually seek to translate knowledge acquired through basic research into novel approaches for clinical diagnosis and treatment. Scientists can spend large amounts of time researching on the Internet. Having the flexibility to customize the filtering in the ways necessary for compliance of the hospital's Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) is accomplished with M86.

Wesley shared, "The intent for monitoring and blocking at St. Jude is not to hinder any of the organization's purpose, but to help provide the proper work environment." He added, "Do we have the potential to block a site needed for true organizational/business needs? Yes. However, with M86 Security we offer an option to submit a request for additional evaluation of the Web site blocked, which my department reviews the classification of the site and provides support to the requestor."

Result

Wesley and his team found the M86 WFR provides the perfect solution for St. Jude. It sits at the network's gateway, where it makes use of deep packet inspection to scan all internal traffic heading out to the Web. When it spots a violating packet requesting a site in violation of policy, it takes fast action on two fronts. First, it sends a block page to the workstation that generated the request, typically within 2 to 4 minutes. Then it sends a TCP reset to the site to cancel the session. By sealing off access to unauthorized sites so quickly, the M86 WFR prevents unauthorized Web access.

Recent enhancements to the M86 WFR make it even better suited to healthcare organizations struggling with HIPAA compliance. It now features IM blocking, so that employees who should be working rather than chatting won't put an organization's information and infrastructure at risk. As with URL filtering, this helps limit legal liability since employees can't IM, therefore they can't use it to transmit sensitive data. IM blocking also reduces the risk of virus infiltration. And in the M86 implementation, it serves as a baseline for P2P blocking so companies are protected against backdoor breaches from file-sharing sites.

In addition, Wesley finds one of the best things about the M86 WFR is the flexibility to compensate for certain words and their alternate meanings. "The M86 WFR provides the opportunity for customizing the rule sets to help promote the location of necessary information, while not completely opening access to the Web and its risks." He adds, "The M86 WFR is completely stable and we like the hardened-appliance configuration."

The M86 WFR is designed to give administrators complete flexibility by enabling the creation of custom reports from consolidated data. St. Jude has a staff of over 3,000, and the M86 WFR is able to handle their substantial amounts of Internet traffic because of a generous amount of internal storage. Finally, it is designed to make administration and report generation as simple and efficient as possible. Administrators can point and click through the screens and quickly set up the desired monitoring environment. "I am very impressed with its reporting capability," Wesley says. "It does its job without any glitches or headache to the Information Security staff. Since implementing M86, our Internet usage policy monitoring and compliance has drastically improved."

Solution

The M86 WFR helped provide St. Jude with a seamless, multi-layered and cost-effective solution to ensure their policy compliance. In addition, the potential risks of malicious code, spyware, and virus-type sites are monitored and blocked while inappropriate Internet use has been avoided. "It's a very cost-effective solution — its accuracy and reliability has saved us by not wasting our resources," Wesley says. "M86 has a great product for any organization facing policy enforcement and/or compliance challenges. The system keeps running, monitoring, recording, and blocking, which is exactly what a customer would expect."

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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