

Synetrix Offers New OPENHIVE Service to UK Government and Education Sector Using M86 Security

Provides Safe and Secure Email Environment for Government Employees and Young Learners

Client:
Synetrix

Website:
<http://www.synetrix.co.uk/>

Requirements:
Email security

Solution:
M86 MailMarshal Service Provider Edition

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Fran Thomas,
Synetrix Technical Director

BACKGROUND

Headquartered in Keele, U.K., Synetrix (part of the Capita Group) provides IT solutions to public sector clients throughout the UK, primarily to local government and education entities. The company specializes in the design, development, integration and deployment of converged networks, hosted application solutions, managed security solutions and software platforms.

One of Synetrix’s many areas of expertise is the education market. The company helps enable students, teachers and staff to access appropriate learning materials and resources, while ensuring schools support district and government educational initiatives.

THE CHALLENGE

Synetrix delivers IT services to over two million people in the UK’s education market. Government regulations drive the need for stringent email security in education environments, making it imperative that students access only safe, relevant learning materials. In addition, complex messaging requirements dictate the need for scalable solutions with sophisticated policy controls that set rules by various age, user and content stipulations.

According to Fran Thomas, Technical Director at Synetrix, “Our education customers need an email filtering solution that provides granular content control and flexibility, including the capability to set rules for specific user groups easily. Our previous solution, which used a combination of third-party products, did not provide us the flexibility and granularity we needed to service our customers.”

Because schools typically operate under tight budgets, cost control continues to be a high priority for both Synetrix and its customers. According to Thomas, “We need to give our customers a degree of flexibility and provide a product they can manage comfortably, while reducing operating costs.”

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THE SOLUTION

With a strong history of using M86 Security's email filtering products, Synetrix's OPENHIVE email security services, built on the M86 MailMarshal Service Provider Edition (SPE) platform, provides the ideal solution for its customers in the education sector. With management interfaces designed for both service providers and their customers, M86 MailMarshal SPE enables Synetrix to provide a multi-tenanted, cloud-based service to their customers without compromising any of the functionality they are used to from a locally-installed gateway.

Why Synetrix Chooses M86 MailMarshal SPE:

- Flexible and robust hosted email security platform based on Microsoft Windows
- Granularity of security and content controls
- Easy to manage
- Simple user interface
- Highly scalable and customizable to various customer needs
- Multi-tenancy capability
- Cost effective platform; therefore improved competitiveness
- Leading anti-spam (99.5% detection rate), anti-virus and email content security
- Modular service options and licensing
- Application Programming Interface for backend system integration

M86 MailMarshal SPE's array architecture makes it simple to deploy in large education environments, and its ability to link multiple email servers in clustered and load-balanced arrays enables Synetrix to centrally and reliably manage thousands of email accounts.

It is also a strong redundant platform. Email processing nodes can continue to run for extended periods while disconnected from the Array Manager or SQL logging servers. Nodes can be connected in load-balanced, redundant arrays, ensuring “always-on” availability and enabling flexibility for maintenance and support.

“M86 MailMarshal SPE is a more appealing proposition for our education customers—it's more in tune with what they need and offers everything they ask for in an email filtering solution. With an intuitive interface and flexibility, it provides the information our customers want in a simple format, while masking the technical details that are irrelevant to them,” says Thomas.

BUSINESS BENEFITS

Synetrix offers M86 MailMarshal SPE as a targeted, education-focused email security service. The modular service solution enables Synetrix to manage the operating system, and the software aligns well with the way the company delivers its OPENHIVE services.

“M86 MailMarshal SPE accomplishes email filtering tasks that previously required two third-party products,” said Thomas. “We migrated away from those solutions as amongst others, it was not granular and robust enough for us. In our deployments to date, the deployment of M86 MailMarshal SPE proved stable and robust. Plus it requires little maintenance, and—bottom line—it does what we want it to do.”

Delivering an email security solution on a Windows platform benefits Synetrix and its customers in many ways: Using an existing infrastructure is a simple but obvious way to lower the total cost of operations. And it eliminates the need for extensive training because users already understand how to use the platform.

“A solution that is so flexible and granular and provides regular updates to policy engines, anti-virus and other security features is highly beneficial to us,” said Thomas. “M86 MailMarshal SPE fits into our product set. It’s another piece of the puzzle in a managed environment,” said Thomas. “The solution has allowed us to extend our scope and provides a flexible means to address our customers’ rigorous email security needs.”

CONCLUSION

“We win customers because we can offer specific data retention, restoration windows and availability targets that we couldn’t do with a cloud service. We have more control over end-to-end delivery of our email filtering service—and M86 Security’s offering allows us to just do that,” Thomas commented.

The company expects to use the M86 MailMarshal product family on many of its future contracts. According to Thomas, “It has become our default product offering for email filtering. We highly recommend the product for delivering and managing email filtering platforms for large organizations. It offers control, flexibility and the ability to consolidate an infrastructure, making it especially relevant to our education customer base.”

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 Orange, 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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