

UK's Institute of Directors Consolidates Web Security Using the M86 Secure Web Gateway

Client:

Institute of Directors (IoD)

Web Site:

<http://www.iod.co.uk>

Requirements:

Web filtering and reporting

Filtering Solutions:

M86 Secure Web Gateway

“M86 Security is the market leader with a proven system.”

Richard Swann,
IT Infrastructure Manager

BACKGROUND

Founded in 1903, the Institute of Directors (IoD) is a highly respected organization in the UK's business sector. Its membership includes over 55,000 directors of British companies, who count on the IoD to provide the information and advice they require to help their businesses succeed.

Headquartered in three London buildings, the IoD maintains ten regional offices located throughout the UK. An efficient and secure information and communication infrastructure is critical for supporting its nationwide operations. Moreover, as a leader in the business community, the IoD cannot afford to compromise when it comes to Internet security. The task of keeping the IoD network secure falls on the shoulders of Richard Swann, IT Infrastructure Manager.

“Security is a business issue. The IoD is committed to informing businesses about Internet-based threats such as spyware and phishing, and how they can protect themselves from these hazards,” states Swann.

The IoD regional offices 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. Over 280 users around the UK access centralized applications over the network. The IoD has historically used security solutions from M86 Security and several other in-house and third-party solutions to protect its users from Internet-based threats.

BUSINESS CHALLENGE AND REQUIREMENTS

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 save money, the IoD decided to consolidate the majority of its existing 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 Internet without restrictions to support the IoD Business Information service, which handles members' call-in queries. The IoD previously routed user groups through several 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 and the ability to enforce this policy using a commercially

“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.”

Richard Swann
IT Infrastructure Manager

available product was seen as a major advantage, not to mention the associated reductions in administration overhead.

In light of the plethora of spyware, phishing and other Web-based attacks that can compromise personal information, IoD required a solution that would protect its staff and members from potential identity theft.

M86 SECURE WEB GATEWAY SOLUTION

The IoD chose to implement the M86 Secure Web Gateway to consolidate its Web security infrastructure. As a satisfied customer of M86’s software-based solutions since 1999, the IoD hardly considered other options: “M86 Security is the market leader with a proven system, 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 world’s most comprehensive Web security in an all-in-one, easy to install and “self-managing” appliance. It integrates M86’s unique security technologies, including real-time code analysis, Vulnerability Anti.dote™, anti-virus and URL filtering engines.

M86’s patented, behavior-based real-time code analysis technology identifies and blocks known and unknown viruses and malicious code, usually before anti-virus vendors have issued an update, a fact that the IoD and Swann had come to rely upon over the last five years.

“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 and powerful synergies 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 key IT resource charged with supporting its various security solutions, for other important tasks.

“M86’s proactive protection against Spyware and other malware threats has allowed us to concentrate on core business activities, without spending inordinate resources handling security incidents and cleaning infected computers,” concludes Swann.

KEY BENEFITS FOR THE IOD

- Comprehensive all-in-one solution for Web security in a single secure, reliable and low-administration appliance
- Integrated content security including behavior-based security, vulnerability protection, anti-spyware, anti-virus, content filtering and URL filtering
- Reduction in complexity and administrative overhead by simplifying the previous architecture built upon multiple proxies and disparate solutions
- Enhanced performance and productivity of users
- Reduced security administration and management efforts by one full IT resource
- Reduced patch management overhead due to M86's "hardened" OS and automatic updates (fed by M86 Security), with the added benefit of no third-party OS license fee

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 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.

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