

VANGUARD AGAINST SPAM FUELLED BY MXTREME

Vanguard Car Rental (UK) has improved its email security through additional anti-virus protection, reducing spam by 95% and preventing denial of service attacks, all from one easy to use appliance, MXtreme Mail Firewall from BorderWare Technologies. In addition, MXtreme enables a unique mechanism for supporting access to internal mail servers for Vanguard's remote users.

With leading brands National Car Rental, Alamo Rent-a-Car and Guy Salmon, Vanguard Car Rental (UK) is the UK's largest car rental company. Offering its customers' vehicles from Minis to chauffer driven luxury saloons, Vanguard provides an unrivalled choice of vehicles for any occasion.

EMAIL CRITICAL FOR BUSINESS

Email plays a big part in Vanguard's business operation and high availability of the application is considered critical to the company's success. Recognising that the current trend of blended cyber attacks using viruses, spam and hacking techniques could make its email servers a weak spot within the overall security of the organisation, Vanguard decided to strengthen it from several angles as Chris Smith, Network Analyst of Vanguard Car Rental (UK) explains.

"We had been considering our options on improving email security on several different fronts," says Chris Smith. "We wanted to use a different anti-virus solution to that of our internal servers to help beef up protection and we were also suffering from a large volume of spam that was becoming unmanageable. However, we were also acutely aware that some anti-spam solutions require a vast amount of ongoing management to remain effective and in some estimations this can cost as much as fourteen or fifteen thousand pounds a year, which was also unacceptable on top of the cost of the implementing the solution."

Vanguard attended a technology roadmap seminar during which one of the products featured was MXtreme Mail Firewall, a comprehensive email security appliance that protects an organisation's email infrastructure from spam and viruses, buffer overflows, denial of server attacks and a host of other threats.

ONE LOOK IS ALL IT TOOK

Having seen during the seminar that this could be the answer to its email security concerns Vanguard arranged to run an evaluation of MXtreme in house for a month. Vanguard already use the BorderWare Technologies' SteelGate, a high-performance Firewall + VPN appliance, so they were confident that the solution proposed was from a vendor that was known for developing secure and trusted products.

MXtreme easily installs either on a DMZ or internally behind an existing firewall. It delivers the most complete security available for email systems and is purpose built for internet deployment, with a fine-grained security architecture. MXtreme was the first commercially available mail firewall that employed Bayesian filter techniques to control spam

(Statistical Token Analysis). A key benefit of Bayesian filters is their capacity to adjust and learn from local usage, which in turn dramatically reduces the amount of time normally needed to manage anti-spam solutions.

"During the evaluation period we were hit by a major virus outbreak but MXtreme stopped it dead in its tracks. It was at that point we went to the finance department and told them they could sell some of the servers on ebay if they had to, but that we needed this product," jokes Chris Smith.

COMPLETE EMAIL SECURITY, ONE APPLIANCE

In addition to other security measures, MXtreme offers a built-in SMTP based anti-virus solution by Kaspersky Labs, which ensures that Vanguard is protected from viruses, worms and Trojan horses at the email gateway. All inbound and outbound mail is scanned before it enters or leaves the company. "Besides spam and viruses, which MXtreme obliterated effortlessly, the other feature we like is that we have more control over our point of ingress. For instance if a PC out there suddenly wakes up and starts bombarding us with junk mail, we can simply tell our servers to stop listening to that specific machine quickly and easily. Attacks such as this can cripple an email infrastructure but now we can tune out, saving bandwidth and preserving our servers' integrity.

To any business strong email security is invaluable. MXtreme has enabled us to reduce spam by about ninety-five percent to a much more manageable level with very little intervention from us and its anti-virus capability makes it a real winner. In the future we are planning to use the BorderWare Post facility which will allow our remote users to access the internal mail servers, securely. Throughout the entire evaluation period BorderWare were readily available and we found their guidance and knowledge in assisting Vanguard achieve maximum benefit from MXtreme extremely helpful."