

MXtreme™ Mail Firewall



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Rob Grainger
Systems Specialist
The City of Mississauga

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The City of Mississauga is Canada’s sixth largest city, and considered a municipal leader in fiscal responsibility, technology and urban development. Mississauga provides its citizens with state-of-the-art facilities and programs and is recognized as the safest city in Canada to live, work and play.

Reduce IT Administration Costs of Anti-Virus Protection

Centralized at its municipal offices in the downtown core, the City of Mississauga IT department maintains services to more than 2500 people. Faced with the proliferation of viruses, the group deployed anti-virus software on each desktop, but found that distributing timely updates and new virus signature files to each and every user was a mammoth and costly task. Since email traffic is not inspected by a firewall and is simply directed to the internal mail servers, new viruses could easily enter the City’s systems, and in turn, infect individual users who are not up-to-date with their anti-virus software.

According to Rob Grainger, Systems Specialist at the City of Mississauga, “by the time it would take to recognize a new virus threat, download a new update, and get it installed on every desktop, we could have a major problem on our hands.” Taking a prudent and proactive course, the IT group decided to find a centralized, self-maintaining solution that would not require administrative resources to manage virus updates for the more than 2500 desktops or rely entirely on the diligence of end users. “We needed a solution that would stop viruses from even entering our email systems.”

A background image showing a person in profile, looking at a computer monitor. The person is in the foreground, and the monitor is in the background. The image is slightly blurred and has a blue tint.

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MXtreme Stops Attacks Before They Get In

After examining several different solutions, Grainger decided that an email security appliance, dedicated to managing all inbound (and outbound email traffic) with integrated anti-virus filtering functionality would safeguard against email borne virus attacks. Such an appliance would add another level of protection on top of the anti-virus software already deployed on every desktop. Grainger selected BorderWare's MXtreme email security appliance, which includes self-updating anti-virus functionality out of the box.

MXtreme is an email-specific firewall appliance that sits between the Internet and internal mail servers preventing any number of threats to email from spam, viruses, Trojans and worms, to malformed messages and denial of service attacks.

At the heart of MXtreme is BorderWare's security technology called S-Core™, a hardened operating system that is integral to the Common Criteria EAL4+ (with EAL5 vulnerability analysis) certification achieved by BorderWare's firewall security products. The Common Criteria is a set of international standards subscribed to by 16 nations (including the U.S.) that grades products on their security and reliability, as well as the vendor's development and support processes for ensuring quick responses to problems. EAL4+ is the highest grade achieved by commercial applications.

In addition to its high level of security and integrity, MXtreme includes SecurityConnection™, a feature that can notify IT administrators of security issues, and automatically update the appliance with new anti-virus signatures.

A background image showing a person in profile, looking at a computer monitor in an office setting.

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MXtreme Cuts its Administration Costs

Despite the constant deluge of new email viruses, including major attacks like Blaster and SoBig, The City of Mississauga's email system remained protected.

MXtreme performed flawlessly, stamping out malicious code before it could enter the mail servers and spread internally. "Deploying MXtreme to handle all email traffic for potential viruses has solved an enormous administrative burden and saved the IT group time and money," said Grainger. "MXtreme has paid for itself many times over."