

Sophos Endpoint Protection Advanced



“We immediately felt comfortable that we’d found a proven solution that was the right fit for NZCER”

BUSINESS CHALLENGE

MidCentral DHB has approximately 1,800 desktop PCs across its network of campuses, and many of these terminals are accessed by multiple users. With an increased call on its IT resources, the DHB needed to ensure greater levels of control by introducing restrictions on the use of external USB devices and CD Rom drives.

“Portable storage devices are now a fact of life and so they are something we need to be able to control better,” says Robert Bradnock, Team Leader – Infrastructure at MidCentral DHB. “Our existing AV solution did not provide us with the level of control we needed, so we began evaluating other solutions to find a better fit for our specific requirements,” he adds.

In evaluating all other available offerings, MidCentral DHB had a clear set of criteria it needed a solution to meet as a minimum. “We needed a solution that was easy to manage and use, provided a solid layer of control and comfort to the organisation, and would keep us protected now and into the future,” says Mr Bradnock. “While most options offered some of what we needed, most were unable to tick all of our boxes cost-effectively,” he adds. “Sophos Endpoint Protection Advanced was the stand out exception, with excellent functionality at the right price,” he explains.

IT Security specialist Scientific Software & Systems (SSS) had recently negotiated a special Sophos pricing structure for all New Zealand DHBs and this made Sophos Endpoint Protection Advanced (SEPA) an even more attractive option for MidCentral DHB. “We were already very impressed with the SEPA solution, and the special pricing was an added bonus that helped make our decision even easier,” says Mr Bradnock.

“We also considered the recent experiences of our counterparts at Canterbury DHB, who had gone out to RFP earlier in 2013 and selected Sophos as a result,” he adds.

THE SOLUTION

In late 2013, MidCentral DHB purchased a 3 year subscription to SOPHOS Endpoint Protection Advanced and by April 2014 had just under 1,800 devices managed by the new solution.

“Sophos Endpoint Protection Advanced (SEPA) offers simple, user-friendly protection that blocks threats, not productivity. With centralised patch assessment, application control, device control and data loss prevention (DLP), SEPA makes it easy for organisations to keep its users safe without getting in their way.

Sophos Endpoint Protection packs antivirus, HIPS, device control, application control and DLP into a single, high-performance agent. This single agent lets you block threats, monitor the transfer of your sensitive data and enforce web content

ORGANISATION

MidCentral District Health Board

LOCATIONS

Central Campus – Palmerston North
Other Campuses (10) - Palmerston North (4), Otaki, Pahiatua, Whanganui, Feilding, Levin, Dannevirke

STAFF

More than 2,500

SOLUTION

Sophos Endpoint Protection Advanced



MIDCENTRAL DISTRICT HEALTH BOARD
Te Pae Hauora o Ruahine o Tararua

MidCentral District Health Board funds and provides a range of health and disability services to around 160,000 people living in MidCentral’s district (Palmerston North, Manawatu, Tararua, Horowhenua and Otaki of the central North Island of New Zealand).

The DHB is responsible for “improving, promoting and protecting” their health and the health of the communities in which they live.

With more than 2,500 users to support across multiple locations throughout the region, MidCentral DHB needed to find a new simplified anti-virus solution that would offer greater levels of control, functionality and protection.

filtering. "Having Sophos with its centralised management console has made things so much simpler for our IT team," says Mr Bradnock. "It's so good to be able to go to a single dashboard and see at a glance which of our terminals have had Sophos applied, and which have not," he adds.

"The ability to see so much information on one screen is brilliant for an organisation of our size, as you simply can't get around every machine physically without a great deal of travel and time," explains Mr Bradnock. At MidCentral DHB there is an ongoing commitment to finding new ways of working smarter and not harder, and Mr Bradnock believes SEPA supports that vision.

"We operate full desktops, and these terminals are on a scheduled 5 year rolling life cycle," says Mr Bradnock. "Having a solution that allows us to see which computers have been updated to Sophos simply and remotely is fantastic," he adds. "More importantly, it does this while adding much greater control over what we can allow or restrict", says Mr Bradnock.

MidCentral DHB is impressed with how well Sophos Endpoint Protection Advanced is now protecting its data from infection. "SEPA protects us at a level we're much more comfortable with, as it is a more mature solution than what we had previously," says Mr Bradnock. "Sophos has always been well respected for its anti-virus solutions, and we can now understand why," he adds. "For the DHB it is all about risk-mitigation and Sophos makes that much simpler, without any sacrifice on flexibility and control," adds Mr Bradnock.

IMPLEMENTATION

Sophos Endpoint Protection Advanced is a highly intuitive solution that is easy to install and configure. "Sophos was quite easy to implement, and we were able to manage that process ourselves, with remote support from the team at SSS," says Mr Bradnock. "Despite being unfamiliar with the product, we were able to quickly get our heads around the policies and how the product should be used, and it was pretty straightforward," he adds.

"As with any implementation we had a number of questions during the install and SSS were always very quick to respond, and there was always a healthy, mutual respect throughout the process," says Mr Bradnock. "SSS has been very good with its follow-up contact and hasn't simply sold us the product and left us to it," adds Mr Bradnock. "We've had regular contact asking if we have any questions about Sophos and for me that is always going to equate to added value," he explains.

MidCentral DHB now has most of its devices managed by Sophos and has found the impact on the organisation relatively minor. "The overall 'footprint' of Sophos has been quite small from an infrastructure perspective," says Mr Bradnock. "Licensing is a big thing in IT and Sophos reduces that call on computer and technical resource," he explains. "We're running Sophos on a relatively small machine and it's doing the job easily, and we're really pleased with that as a result," he adds.

OUTCOMES

In implementing a change to Sophos Endpoint Protection Advanced, MidCentral DHB has achieved its goal of introducing a new layer of protection, control and comfort.

"Sophos has allowed us to simplify our anti-virus and better control the use of external devices across our number of campuses," says Mr Bradnock.

"SEPA keeps us more informed than ever before and more protected than we have been in the past, and that brings inherent peace-of-mind across the DHB," adds Mr Bradnock.

"I'll never say there is a product that is 100% perfect, but we're much more comfortable with Sophos than we have been with other solutions," he concludes.



**IT SECURITY
SPECIALISTS**

ABOUT SOPHOS ENDPOINT PROTECTION ADVANCED

Sophos Endpoint Protection packs antivirus, HIPS, device control, application control and DLP into a single, high-performance agent. This single agent lets you block threats, monitor the transfer of your sensitive data and enforce web content filtering.

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