

Sophos Enduser Web Suite



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BUSINESS CHALLENGE

NZCER is a single-site organisation, with a mixture of full-time and casual staff that utilise a wide range of technologies to undertake their daily activities. Each of these staff may use multiple devices to access network resources, and NZCER was not satisfied that its existing anti-virus solution was providing adequate levels of security to ensure the organisation remained protected.

“We’re a relatively small organisation in size, but the technology we use across the business is quite varied, with a high number of handsets, tablets, Macs and PCs to support,” says Bruce Intemann, IT Systems Specialist at NZCER. “While we only have around 60 permanent people, we actually have in excess of 120 devices that we need to manage at any point in time,” he adds.

“We need to ensure every device is working properly and has the right security in place to protect the wider organisation,” he explains. One of the key shortcomings of its existing AV solution was an inability to effectively monitor web traffic and browsing behaviour, and this was a key catalyst for making NZCER start looking at what other security solutions were available. At the same time, IT Security specialist Scientific Software & Systems contacted Matt Nichols, IT Manager at NZCER, and discussed in detail what solution would best suit their immediate and future security needs.

“I was impressed with the level of detail that SSS sought regarding our platforms and usage, as in my experience, it’s not a one size fits all approach when it comes to network security,” says Mr Nichols. “We discussed at length the specific security requirements of the organisation, along with the budget we had allocated for a new anti-virus solution,” he adds. “SSS recommended Sophos Enduser Web Suite as an ideal fit for our needs,” says Mr Nichols.

As it set about evaluating Sophos Enduser Web Suite, NZCER canvassed its staff and discovered some of its people had already used the solution and were very positive of their experiences. “We had very good feedback from others who had used Sophos security solutions and in particular from a member of staff who had used Enduser Web Suite,” says Mr Intemann. “We immediately felt comfortable that we’d found a proven solution that was the right fit for NZCER,” he explains.

THE SOLUTION

In choosing Sophos Enduser Web Suite, NZCER was able to not only meet all of its immediate selection criteria, but also future-proof the security needs of the organisation. “There were a number of things we were especially looking for in a new solution and Sophos Enduser Web Suite ticked all the boxes and more,” says Mr Intemann.

“The things we were most impressed with were how neatly the Sophos solution integrated into the active directory, its automated deployment, and the accuracy

ORGANISATION

New Zealand Council for Educational Research (NZCER)

LOCATIONS

Education House - Wellington

STAFF

Over 60 full-time and casual staff

SOLUTION

Sophos Enduser Web Suite



Established in 1934, the New Zealand Council for Educational Research (NZCER) is the country’s only national, independent educational research organisation. Its purpose is to generate the ideas, questions, tools, products and services to meet educational needs now and in the future.

The Wellington based team of more than 60 permanent and casual staff produce research-based solutions that will inform and assist the work of teachers and learners across the public and private sector.

As an organisation that relies heavily on using technology, and in particular the Internet for research, NZCER needed an endpoint security solution that would block threats, not productivity.

of its reporting functionality," he adds. "SSS installed Sophos Web Client, as we didn't currently have a good way of monitoring web traffic, and we immediately had lots of rich reporting on our teams' web browsing," he explains. "It also instantly protected our users if they were about to visit a potentially harmful website," adds Mr Intemann.

NZCER also liked the way in which Sophos Enduser Web Suite is able to be integrated into the domain controller, allowing for the secure enabling of BYOD in the future. "BYOD is something we may choose to look at further down the track, and it's great to know we have a solution that offers genuine extensibility when we need it," says Mr Intemann.

IMPLEMENTATION

NZCER was pleasantly surprised at how easy the installation of the new software was across the organisation.

"Implementation of Sophos was very fast and ultimately quite straightforward, taking just a day to deploy across all devices," says Mr Intemann. "The team at SSS helped with initial configuration and they did a great job at setting it all up for us," he adds. "They provided us with one executable file which was configured on all the devices at one time, making the implementation process more streamlined and easier than we expected," he explains.

The team at SSS provided close support to NZCER throughout the implementation process, and helped make minor adjustments as required. "We initially had some issues with accessing certain websites as the new system was being a little 'over-protective' and doing its job a little too well," says Mr Intemann. "The issue was quickly rectified by the SSS team, and subsequently we've had no further problems," he adds.

It was the first time that both NZCER and Mr Intemann had worked with the team at SSS and he has been impressed by the level of care and attention to detail their partner has provided.

"If I had tried to implement the solution myself, I suspect it would have taken me a week if not two to deploy," says Mr Intemann. "SSS took the time to look closely at the needs of the organisation and then configured the solution to perfectly meet those needs," he adds.

"We were able to deploy faster, and that meant we could enjoy the benefits of the new system sooner - and so we did, with our first virus alerts within a week," explains Mr Intemann.

OUTCOMES

NZCER is pleased with the value it has already realised from its investment in Sophos Enduser Web Suite.

"As far as web appliances go, with Sophos we were able to immediately see positive trends in our web traffic, and to that end it proved its worth straight-away," says Mr Intemann. "Working with SSS has also been great.

They're a great team with a really broad knowledge of security solutions, and they're really easy to deal with," he adds. "We haven't really needed to contact SSS a great deal to be honest as the product is doing exactly what it is meant to do, and upgrades are automatic," he explains.

"When we have needed their help, their support has been excellent and that has meant for a very smooth experience overall," he concludes.



ABOUT SOPHOS COMPLETE SECURITY SUITE

Sophos Enduser Web Suite is a cost-effective, single license solution that provides complete web and threat protection across all platforms (web, endpoint, mobile and exchange). Ideal for organisations of any size that want complete web protection, Sophos Enduser Web Suite is a simple and affordable way to protect users everywhere they go.

WEB: Sophos Enduser Web Suite offers complete web security and control by combining the best of the gateway, endpoint and cloud to provide better web protection everywhere users go.

ENDPOINT: Block threats, not productivity. Endpoint gives you everything you need to stop malware and protect your data in one console and agent. It's the fast, effective and complete security solution for your users, wherever they are, to block threats, not productivity.

MOBILE: Securely enable BYOD. Sophos Enduser Web Suite's Mobile Device Management (MDM) makes secure access to corporate email and data from smartphones and tablets easy.

EXCHANGE: Antivirus and anti-spam for your Microsoft Exchange servers. Sophos Enduser Web Suite blocks spam, viruses, spyware and phishing, by scanning all inbound, outbound and internal email and Exchange message stores. It proactively protects against email-borne threats, and prevents confidential data being lost.

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