

Case Study - PayPoint

Customer Profile

PayPoint is one of Britain's leading payment collection networks with over 15,000 payment terminals in operation across the United Kingdom. PayPoint is used primarily for the cash payment of bills and services and pre-payments for mobile phone networks and energy meters. During the last financial year, the Hertfordshire-based company processed more than 322 million payments worth approximately £3.8 billion, and now has more than 800 clients across the utility, television, mobile phone, local authority, financial and leisure sectors.

On average, more than 6 million transactions are made at PayPoint terminals each week. Over the last ten years, PayPoint's customer base has grown rapidly as consumers look for ever more convenient ways to pay for services 'over the counter'.

As the company grows in size, maintaining the integrity of PayPoint's IT network, is a top priority for PayPoint's business risk manager, Paul Rogers. This includes ensuring employees are given secure access to the Internet as part of the wider integrated approach to security adopted by PayPoint.

As a financial services firm, PayPoint is subject to compliance regulations and applies information security standards as best practice. Among these is ISO 27001 standard certification, an information security management standard designed to establish an effective information and network systems security policy. To help maintain its Internet acceptable use policy as part of this standard, PayPoint sought advice from UKN Group, a Thames Valley-based specialist IT services firm which helps businesses improve the efficiency of their IT systems and services by providing design, implementation and support services.

In order to protect PayPoint's 225 users from a growing number of increasingly sophisticated Web threats, UKN Group suggested an evaluation of ScanSafe's managed Web security services.

After reviewing other available solutions, including on-premise appliances, PayPoint opted for ScanSafe's managed service with leading heuristics technology that continually guards against the latest Web-borne malware and delivers the benefits of cost effectiveness and scalability.

The Challenge

PayPoint employees use the Web for business purposes and recreational Internet browsing during their free time. Additionally, some users log-on to the network remotely. As a result, the corporate network is at risk from sophisticated Web-based malware such as Trojans, key-stroke loggers and adware.

"As a technology-based company in the finance sector, our challenge is to maintain a secure, high-availability service for our clients and network of agents," said Paul Rogers, Business Risk Manager, PayPoint. "We need to do this while meeting our compliance commitments in line with an increasing number of standards and regulations such as ISO 27001. My responsibility is to mitigate any risk to the integrity of our network by ensuring we have the most reliable technology in place, allowing us to remove or minimize IT security risks."

PayPoint already had a Web-filtering solution in place, which monitored HTTP traffic. However, this in-house tool was supported by PayPoint's internal IT resources, consuming valuable IT staff time that could have been allocated to other core IT projects.

"We needed a solution that would allow us to retain control over our applied IT policies and usage reports while at the same time being confident that we had a dedicated team of IT security specialists filtering all of our Web traffic," Rogers said. "We've noticed that the number and diversity of computer viruses in the wild has increased and we needed a solution that was capable of blocking Web-based malware before it even had a chance of entering our network. We were looking for a specialist IT security company with a proven track record that could do this efficiently and effectively without introducing any latency. ScanSafe was uniquely positioned in the market place to meet our needs."

In addition to the best available threat protection, PayPoint needed a solution that would provide robust reporting. Reporting can often be a time consuming and daunting task. It was critical for PayPoint to be able to analyze data quickly and produce reports on Web usage patterns, bandwidth utilization, general Internet usage and to notify IT administrators about any potential security risks in a timely manner.

PayPoint



PayPoint is a leading payment collection network of over 15,000 outlets used, primarily, for the cash payment of bills and services and prepayments for mobile telephones and energy meters.

PayPoint began trading in 1996 and initially collected payments through its network of retail agents for its founder client investors, who included British Gas, BT, BBC TV Licensing, London Electricity (now part of EDF Energy) and four water companies.

It now has more than 800 clients including many of the UK and Ireland's major energy, cable, mobile and fixed line telephony companies. Its blue chip client list also extends to numerous water companies, local authorities and housing associations and a growing transport and travel base.

PayPoint listed on the London Stock Exchange in September 2004.

Industry

Financial Services

Employees

225

Solution

Web Malware Scanning and Web Filtering

Results

- Over 4,000 spyware and adware blocks each month
- Zero latency
- 24 x 7 real-time threat scanning
- Compliance with ISO 20071
- Increased productivity and reduction in bandwidth consumption
- Centralized administration, management and reporting

The ScanSafe Solution

Since the beginning of August 2005, ScanSafe has provided PayPoint with Web Virus Scanning, Web Filtering and Spyware Screening services.

ScanSafe Web Malware Scanning provides PayPoint with protection from Web-borne viruses and is powered by ScanSafe's patented heuristics technology - Outbreak Intelligence™. It removes harmful viruses before they reach the network, and identifies and blocks zero hour threats—threats that appear before an anti-virus signature is available. This service can also help to identify machines which are already infected with spyware. These include malicious spyware, nuisance adware and phishing attacks.

ScanSafe Web Filtering provides control over how PayPoint's employees use the Internet. It provides easy-to-use tools to create, enforce and monitor company Web usage policies. Using the most accurate categorization databases, Web Filtering helps manage the firm's Internet traffic, protecting the network and staff from undesirable Web content.

All of the ScanSafe services provided an easy-to-use, centralized reporting and administration portal—ScanCenter. ScanCenter provides PayPoint with a secure, Web-based dashboard that simplifies the process of configuring, monitoring and enforcing policy. It allows PayPoint to generate various reports ranging from general departmental usage trends through to more detailed individual reports. It enables the customer administrator to:

- Review statistics of all viruses captured, spyware stopped and Web content blocked
- Create access restrictions and apply these to specific users or groups
- Customize browser alert pages seen by users when Web access to a particular site or file is denied
- Update administration details for real-time email alerts
- Configure and schedule automated system auditing and reporting

ScanCenter makes reporting both easy and accessible for PayPoint.

The Results

On average, ScanSafe blocks 4,000 instances of spyware and adware each month for PayPoint. ScanSafe Web Filtering blocks average approximately 15,000 instances of unwanted Web content each month, affording PayPoint employees a safe and productive Internet environment.

"Deploying an in depth, multi-layered IT defense is the best approach towards protecting our network," says Rogers. "We'd been using a managed service for email anti-virus and anti-spam protection for a number of years, so it was a logical choice for us to outsource our Web security and control solution as well.

"Pushing the perimeter out to a trusted third party, while maintaining strong internal controls, has proven to be an extremely worthwhile and cost-effective decision for PayPoint.

"ScanSafe's technology has so far proved to be 100 percent effective at blocking all known and emerging Web threats. It provides features that enable us to retain control over our own policies while removing the hassle and expense of maintaining an in-house system."

ScanSafe

ScanSafe is the largest global provider of Web Security-as-a-Service, ensuring a safe and productive Internet environment for businesses. ScanSafe solutions keep viruses and spyware off corporate networks and allow businesses to control and secure the use of the Web and instant messaging. As a fully managed service, ScanSafe's solutions require no hardware, upfront capital costs or maintenance and provide unparalleled real-time threat protection. Powered by its proactive, multilayered Outbreak Intelligence™ threat detection technology, ScanSafe scans more than 7 billion Web requests and blocks 12 million threats each month for customers in over 30 countries.

With offices in London and San Mateo, California, ScanSafe is privately owned and financed by Benchmark Capital and Scale Venture Partners. The company received a 2007 CODiE award for Best Software as a Service Solution, the Info Security Global Product Excellence Award for Best Managed Security Service and was named one of Red Herring's Top 100 Technology companies. For more information, visit www.scansafe.com.

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