

Victor Chandler Worldwide opts for ScanSafe as it refuses to gamble on Web security

Customer Profile

Formed in 1946, but tracing its history even further back to Walthamstow Greyhound Stadium in the 1920's, the Victor Chandler Group has evolved into an international betting and gaming business with a turnover in excess of £1 billion. The company has a multi-layered sports betting operation that enables punters to place a wide range of bets on most major sports, via phone, the Internet, or at the racetrack. The company moved its operations to Gibraltar in 1999 to take advantage of tax-free betting, and now employs 450 staff there.

The Victor Chandler Group has expanded from sports betting into online poker, casino and other gaming platforms and has more than 500,000 customers in over 160 countries. It also runs an affiliate scheme with a range of other websites.

Because the technology behind its betting and gaming sites was developed in-house, the Victor Chandler Group has been able to market its gambling platforms to other companies, building and managing their online services.

Business Situation

As a 24/7 Internet-based business, the Web is at the heart of the Victor Chandler Group's operation.

Staff spend a large proportion of their time exploring online gaming and betting sites, either to monitor the performance of their own platforms, deal with a particular customer query or to check on developments with rival services.

Employees also use a Web interface when dealing with third-party service providers, for example payment processing companies or credit agencies.

Victor Chandler's traders, who take responsibility for risk assessment, odds compilation or handling proprietary bets, make regular use of instant messaging platforms in order to keep up-to-date with the very latest sports or betting information.

As well as providing anti-virus and firewall security on the desktop, the company protects its corporate network with a proxy-based Web security solution from Symantec at its main Internet gateway.

The company decided to rethink its security strategy when it opened a new office with 25 staff in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

"The Kuala Lumpur office was not connected to our corporate network, so we were looking for a remote solution that enabled us to secure staff against Web threats and enforce our Internet usage policy," says Chris Murchison, operations engineer at the Victor Chandler Group.

The ScanSafe Solution

The company looked at a range of different Web security options before opting for a managed service in the shape of ScanSafe's Web Malware Scanning and Web Filtering.

Web Malware Scanning offers protection from Web-borne viruses and is powered by ScanSafe's proactive 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. It also delivers protection against threats that use stealth or deception. Finally, it helps identify machines that are already infected with spyware.

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



The Victor Chandler brand has become synonymous with the values of honesty, integrity and a pioneering spirit. These values have been built up over seven decades from a small family business to one of the most successful independent sports betting and gaming groups in the world. The Victor Chandler Group has customers in over 164 countries across the world making it a truly global operation. Since its formation in 1946, the group's steady growth has been underpinned by two values that set it apart from anyone else - a pioneering spirit and a passion for sport.

Industries

Gambling/Gaming

Employees

450

Solution

Web Filtering & Web Malware Scanning

Results

- Rapid deployment
- 24 x 7 real-time scanning, protection from malware and enforcement of Internet usage policy
- Increased productivity, reduced burden on IT staff and elimination of maintenance and support of on-site
- Centralized policy setting and reporting

The Results

ScanSafe's managed Web security service was up and running and protecting staff in Victor Chandler's new Kuala Lumpur office from day one of its operations.

"ScanSafe's service has been flexible and really easy to manage," says Chris Murchison. "It has been blocking access to the appropriate sites as well as some nasty spyware and viruses – nothing has got through.

"Neither our employees nor our IT team have had any complaints."

ScanSafe's work in Kuala Lumpur could now be repeated elsewhere around the world as Victor Chandler is considering using the service as an integral part of its expansion strategy. The company also has plans to introduce ScanSafe's in-the-cloud Web security for its Gibraltar head office, where it would be used to provide an extra layer of protection for its corporate network.

As a fully managed service, ScanSafe's solutions require no hardware, software or maintenance, making it easy for organizations to add additional sites and enforce and manage Internet acceptable usage policy across multiple locations.

Victor Chandler is also looking at adding ScanSafe's IM Control service, to help monitor and control the use of instant messaging within the organization.

"We use instant messaging a lot internally and have been hit by a number of MSN viruses recently because we don't have a way of controlling the way it is used," says Chris Murchison.

For a fast-growing, technology-led business like the Victor Chandler Group, ScanSafe's managed services approach has another benefit for Chris Murchison and the hard-working IT infrastructure team he works for - ScanCenter.

ScanCenter is ScanSafe's easy-to-use, centralized reporting and administration portal. It allows IT staff at Victor Chandler to generate various reports ranging from general departmental usage trends to more detailed individual reports. Using the secure, centralized portal, the IT team can easily set Web usage policies for individuals or groups of users. Reporting functionality is comprehensive and ranges from high-level dashboard views to detailed forensic audits on specific users.

"If we can manage more aspects of Web security centrally it can help free-up more of our time and cut IT management costs," says Murchison.

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 in real-time 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.

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