

Brother International

Spam, no bother, for Brother International

Headquartered in Bridgewater, N.J., Brother International Corporation is one of the world's leading producers of products for the home, home office and business environments. With about 780 employees in North and South America employed by Brother International and its subsidiaries, the company processes thousands of emails a day, over 110,000 to be exact. The growing email traffic has forced IT managers to deal with a prevalent spam problem, as well as the clear threat of email viruses.

Introduction

"Brother has been very aggressive recently with outbound email marketing campaigns and surveys, and we have dozens of Brother email addresses out there that have created a large amount of spam traffic for our servers," said Adam Ludlow, senior network administrator. "This extra traffic has also made us vulnerable to email viruses and worms. The growing concern for spam and the threats from viruses, forced us to act, and so we selected Clearswift MAILsweeper™ for SMTP as our email content filtering solution."

The Problem

Brother's small IT staff based in Bridgewater is responsible for managing the network activities for the entire Brother's America operations. In addition to installing MAILsweeper for SMTP to monitor all inbound messages, Brother has secured its Exchange server with MAILsweeper for Exchange, and secured another outbound only email server with MAILsweeper.

"As we are not a large staff, we needed to implement a solution that would not create lot of additional administration and management," Ludlow said. "A few solutions that we looked at required too much integration and appeared too risky for our network should there ever be problems. Clearswift MAILsweeper for SMTP provided useful documentation was quick to install, is easy to use and within the first week of operations, it paid for itself."



Immediate Results

Recently, MAILsweeper was able to prevent two large attacks that could have paralyzed Brother's email servers and network. The infamous Sobig virus and other recent worms have force fed email servers around the globe with two and three times the normal amount of emails. With MAILsweeper installed on Brother's network, the company was able to fend off the viruses and prevent any system downtime or lost data.

"When the Sobig virus hit, we were able to block more than 75,000 suspect emails that contained the virus and when the Blaster virus hit, MAILsweeper blocked more than 350,000 emails in 14 days," Ludlow said. "Before we installed MAILsweeper, virus attacks like the ones that we experienced this summer would have knocked us down for two or three days. With the added protection of Clearswift's email filter, we were able to make a presentation to our executive staff that we did not miss a beat and were able to stay up and running without any major problems."

Summary:

Number of Users: 780

Products Deployed:

- MAILsweeper for SMTP
- MAILsweeper for Exchange

Reasons for choosing Clearswift:

- Reduction in spam
- Minimal administration and management
- Protection of the business and its infrastructure

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At one point, Brother's email servers processed 11,000 emails a day. That has quickly expanded to more than 110,000 emails. The increase in traffic required Brother to implement an aggressive email policy that put certain limitations on what could enter and leave via email from Brother. With MAILsweeper, Brother is able to block any emails with .pifs, .bats, and .exe attachments or extensions, while preventing any email larger than 3.5Mb's from getting through. MAILsweeper also makes it possible to target and block specific email addresses that have been known to produce spam and contain viruses.

Once MAILsweeper was installed it began blocking emails immediately. Ludlow added, "At first MAILsweeper was blocking 300-400 emails a day. Now, MAILsweeper is blocking nearly seventy-five percent of all the inbound emails."

Out of the over 110,000 emails received per day, approximately 86% are blocked because they contain spam and viruses in one form or another-pornography, offers etc. And, due to the increase in volume over the past 6-8 months, Brother now has four MIMESweeper email servers.

In addition to keeping Brother's network secure from harmful virus and spam traffic, one of the most beneficial aspects of MAILsweeper has been the time that it has given back to Brother's IT staff.

About MAILsweeper for SMTP

Clearswift MAILsweeper for SMTP analyzes incoming and outgoing email at the Internet gateway, allowing organizations to implement management and security policies to block inappropriate emails, comply with legal requirements, and increase user productivity.

MAILsweeper for SMTP screens emails based on source, content and destination. Emails entering and leaving the organization at the SMTP gateway are transparently subjected to filtering, monitoring and reporting.

" Email is one less thing that we have to worry about now," Ludlow said. "We have been able to demonstrate to our executive team that we have the solution in place to prevent email attacks and block spam. This allows our IT team to be more productive and focus on other areas of our infrastructure. "

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