



## Statistics New Zealand Case Study

# Statistics New Zealand counts on Clearswift MIMESweeper to safeguard its operations and reputation

### Background

Statistics New Zealand (Te Tari Tatau) is a government department and the country's major source of official statistics. It provides services to other New Zealand government agencies, as well as to national and international economic forecasters and commentators.

Of the organization's 970 employees, 210 are in Auckland, 230 are in Christchurch and 530 are at the head office in Wellington.

### Challenges

Between 1996 and 1998, Statistics New Zealand embarked on a major transformation of its IT infrastructure, which introduced new levels of Internet and email connectivity.

The addition of desktop Internet access to a small number of PCs, and the resulting efficiencies that came from using the Internet as a source of information and research, led Statistics New Zealand to evaluate the risks and benefits of increasing desktop Internet access.

To safeguard its Internet usage, there was a clear need to be able to block URLs by class using a database updated by a third party, but there was also the need to prevent the download of specific file and data types. Furthermore, there were government security guidelines Statistics New Zealand had to comply with.

The organization was also rapidly increasing its use of internal email, with some limited use of Internet email. Spam was not yet identified as a cause for concern, and phishing and botnets were largely unheard of, so Statistics New Zealand was solely focussed on ensuring that viruses did not enter the system through email.

In 1999, following the completion of the transformation, a number of incidents prompted Statistics New Zealand to seek out a complete content security solution to cover both its Internet and email functions.

In one instance, its Lotus Notes server had been exploited as an "open relay", which led to the host being temporarily listed on several open relay block-lists. Then, there were cases of inappropriate content being circulated in emails – content which had been sourced from incoming Internet emails – and finally, speculation surrounding Y2K was rife with concerns of a dramatic increase in the number and severity of viruses at a time when there would be limited time and resources available to respond with anti-virus updates.

"The data we collect and analyse has to be kept confidential until it's officially released, so there are a number of constraints on what information can be accessed and when – and that's what drives our security function," said David Fitzgerald-Irons, Infrastructure Services Consultant, Statistics New Zealand.

"For an organization like us, preservation of trust is paramount. If we lose the trust of the people who supply us with data, they will simply stop giving it to us. We can't afford to do anything that compromises our security."



Company: **Statistics New Zealand**

Headquarters: **Wellington, New Zealand**

Industry: **Government**

Solution: **MIMESweeper for SMTP  
MIMESweeper for Web**

No. of users: **970**

Concerns: **Requirement for a complete content security solution to cover Internet and email functions**

**Flexible and customizable to meet departmental requirements**

**Ensure compliance with email and Internet security policies**

**Reduce pressure on the IT system caused by email volume and spam**

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**David Fitzgerald-Irons**



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## Solution

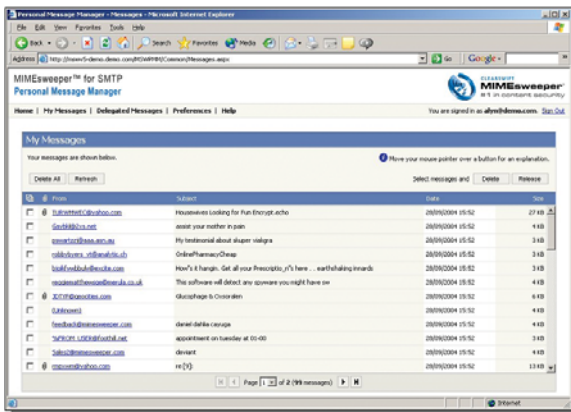
### MIMesweeper for SMTP and MIMesweeper for Web

Statistics New Zealand understood that it would take just one incident to place its reputation at risk, so had no hesitations in deploying a solution based on Clearswift's web and email products, running on the Intel hardware in its Windows operating environment.

Purchasing 1000 licences, the organization deployed MIMesweeper for SMTP and MIMesweeper for Web, alongside a suite of critical software tools including SecureIT, which managed encrypted and digitally signed email communication between government agencies, ReleaseIT and LDAPtIT – all of which were certified on Clearswift's products.

MIMesweeper for SMTP was dropped between the internal Lotus Notes® system and the Internet, allowing Statistics New Zealand to block threats and known viruses as well as monitor and enforce usage policy. It required no complex product integration or upgrade dependencies.

Well-established as a best-of-breed solution in the email content filtering market, MIMesweeper for SMTP already had an impressive track record and met Statistics New Zealand's requirements for an Internet content security solution.



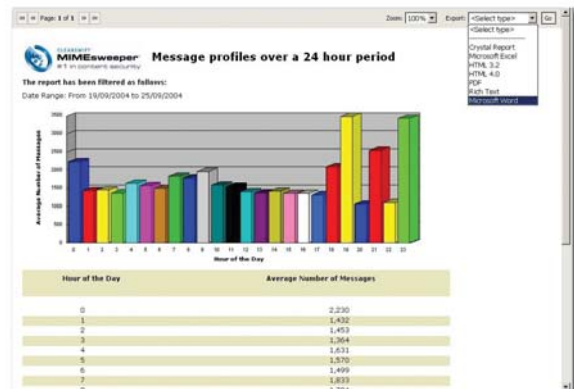
**Personal Message Manager.** Managing your spam and quarantine lists has never been so easy.



The MIMesweeper for Web Policy Engine and Reporting Server sat in the production network for proximity to Active Directory and to ensure that Windows Integrated Authentication could be used when staff browsed the Internet through the proxy server. LDAPtIT was also used to construct user lists for use in more granular content and website access policies. The MIMesweeper URL filter was used to filter classes of websites.

To complement the new technology Statistics New Zealand developed an acceptable use policy, which dictated that responsible personal use of the organization's IT environment, including email, Internet or web resources, may be made for private purposes consistent with the guidelines, but that systems were primarily for work related purposes. Personal use that increases the risk that Statistics New Zealand normally accepts in relation to its business was not permitted. For quarantined emails, the fundamental test was as simple as "is the email work related?"

Today, all employees are required to confirm they have read the policy during induction and regular seminars are organized by the Security Unit to reinforce the message. A regular internal newsletter helps maintain a high level of awareness of policies and general security issues.



MIMesweeper's powerful report center



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## The Results

In addition to protecting Statistics New Zealand's business from email and Internet-borne threats, MIMESweeper for SMTP and MIMESweeper for Web enabled the organization to monitor and enforce compliance with acceptable use policies – ultimately minimizing the risk of damage to its public reputation.

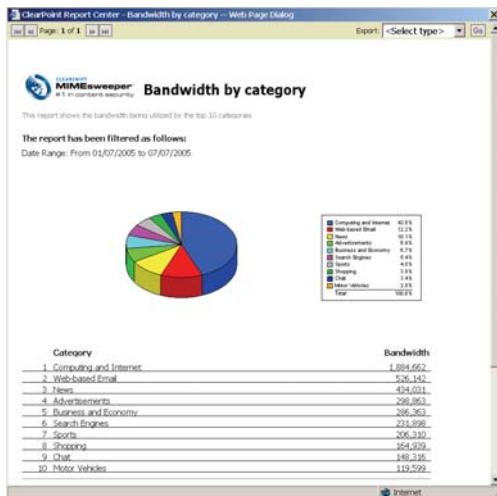
Content filtering and the implementation of email notifications also proved to be a major factor in changing email usage behaviour. Policy became top-of-mind for employees and they considered more carefully what they sent. The volume of non-work related email and the risks created by inappropriate content were also dramatically reduced.

Statistics New Zealand also found that its IT systems were less clogged than they would otherwise be and it experienced reduced exposure to risks from breaches of software copyright.

"Working with MIMESweeper, we were assured that security and content risks were being managed - eliminating harmful material and reducing the maintenance required to manage unwelcome content," said Fitzgerald-Irons.

*"MIMESweeper products have evolved, along with the threat landscape, and so too has Statistics New Zealand's architecture and use of the products."*

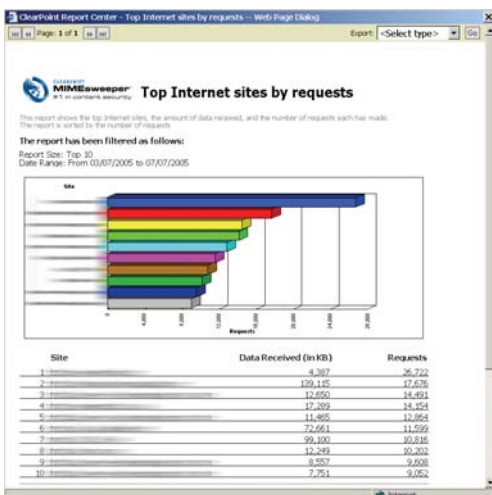
**David Fitzgerald-Irons**



Of particular benefit to the business has been the ability to configure MIMESweeper with granular policies, allowing Statistics New Zealand to reduce the impact that blanket policies might have on doing business. For staff who rely on the timely delivery of email to do their job, and for whom the frequency or volume of quarantine releases due to default policies would render them less effective, access to special policies eases their pain.

According to Fitzgerald-Irons, "We knew that the policies were being ignored, but we had no way of knowing on what scale. MIMESweeper gave us information as well as security and allowed us to re-assert management control over the resources."

Statistics New Zealand also noted that having MIMESweeper for SMTP alongside an external email filtering service (provided by SMX) dramatically improved its anti-spam performance, reduced the traffic through its Internet connection and improved the stability of the MIMESweeper for SMTP servers (through eliminating the spam attacks that are now common-place), thereby freeing internal support resources.



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## The Future

“While our focus to date has been on keeping external threats out, the maturity and efficiency of the solutions today enables us to consider new issues and opportunities, like Data Leakage Protection (DLP) and virtualisation, which will be key priorities for us looking forward,” concluded Fitzgerald-Irons.

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**David Fitzgerald-Irons**

## About Clearswift

Clearswift simplifies content security. Our products help organizations enforce best-practice email and web use, ensuring all traffic complies with internal policy and external regulations. Our range of content filtering solutions makes it easy to deploy, manage and maintain no-compromise email and web security for both inbound and outbound traffic.

Clearswift is the only vendor to offer comprehensive, policy-based content security in all three deployment methods: as software, as an appliance and as a managed service. All three platforms are designed to take the hassle out of securing internet traffic, with a clear, intuitive management interface; automatic, 'zero-touch' updates; powerful reporting and common-sense policy management.

Twenty years of experience across 17,000 organizations has helped us raise security standards while simplifying security management at the same time. We've helped many of the world's most successful organizations use the internet with confidence and are committed to staying ahead of the market and helping our customers defend against all emerging threats.

## Contact Clearswift

### United States

100 Marine Parkway, Suite 550  
Redwood City, CA 94065  
Tel: +1 800 982 6109 | Fax: +1 888-888-6884

### United Kingdom

1310 Waterside, Arlington Business Park, Theale,  
Reading, Berkshire, RG7 4SA  
Tel: +44 (0) 11 8903 8903 | Fax: +44 (0) 11 8903 9000

### Spain

Cerro de los Gamos 1, Edif. 1  
28224 Pozuelo de Alarcón, Madrid  
Tel: +34 91 7901219 / +34 91 7901220 | Fax: +34 91 7901112

### Germany

Amsinckstrasse 67, 20097 Hamburg  
Tel: +49 40 23 999 0 | Fax: +49 40 23 999 100

### Australia

Level 5, Suite 504, 165 Walker Street,  
North Sydney, New South Wales, 2060  
Tel : +61 2 9424 1200 | Fax : +61 2 9424 1201

### Japan

Hanai Bldg. 7F, 1-2-9, Shiba Kouen Minato-ku  
Tokyo 105-0011  
Tel : +81 (3) 5777 2248 | Fax : +81 (3) 5777 2249

### Appliance

MIMESweeper™ Email Appliance  
MIMESweeper™ Web Appliance

### Software

MIMESweeper™ for SMTP  
MIMESweeper™ for Web  
MIMESweeper™ for Exchange  
MIMESweeper™ for Domino  
Bastion™  
DeepSecure™

### Managed Service

MIMESweeper™ Email Managed Service