



# CLEARSWIFT MIMESWEEPER FOR SMTP 5.0



Enterprises have two straightforward choices when looking to implement anti-spam measures and message content filtering. Appliances appeal greatly as they are generally easy to implement - but the downside is they can incur a very high price tag. Software solutions can be lot more cost-effective and Clearswift's MIMESweeper for SMTP is a prime example as it delivers industrial strength anti-spam and message filtering features at a fraction of the cost of an equivalent appliance solution.

Obviously you'll need to source your own hardware, but MIMESweeper takes a modular approach, allowing it to be spread across multiple systems. Its price structure also puts it within the reach of many SMEs, and if performance isn't an issue then everything can be loaded onto a single system.

MIMESweeper comprises a policy server, audit database, web server, reporting and management components, and for security purposes it is recommended that the policy server be placed on your firewall's DMZ. During testing we found installation a lengthy process due to the number of components that must be installed first. However, Clearswift has this nicely automated as MIMESweeper advises on the missing components and offers to install them for you. MIMESweeper requires a resident SQL database, but smaller businesses with

lower email throughput can cut costs further and use the bundled MDSE2000.

Configuration starts at the Policy Editor MMC snap-in which provides plenty of wizard-based help. Mail relay protection is simple enough to set up, as you add hostnames that are allowed to act as relays, and this can also be stiffened with a blacklist of known hosts that are banned from forwarding mail.

MIMESweeper scenarios determine how messages are handled and what content checks are made on them. You could check incoming mail for attachments, viruses and message content, whilst outgoing messages could also be scanned and have a disclaimer inserted into the message body. The priority of scenarios is determined by their position in the list and the use of scenario folders containing routes allows you to decide who they are to be applied to, so different policies can be deployed at the office, departmental and even individual level.

Anti-spam measures are applied using a top-level scenario that compares all incoming mail to the MIMESweeper spam database regardless of its destination. A probability score is calculated and you can use a threshold slider bar in the scenario to decide when a message should be classed as spam. You can then delete these messages, tag them with X-Headers and move them to the appropriate quarantine area.

Classifications decide what actions are

to be used when handling a message that has failed a scenario check. The sheer variety of action options here shows the power of MIMESweeper, and you can apply multiple actions to a classification. As with scenarios the position of classifications in the list determines priority, and this is used when a message fails more than one check that could result in multiple classifications being applied.

MIMESweeper reporting is particularly good as the web-based Manager tool provides plenty of predefined reports on all mail related activity and you can see at a glance the status of mail queues and messages that have been held back. All quarantine areas can be accessed from here, and the Personal Message Manager component allows you to delegate message handling tasks right down to the user level.

Although appliances can be easier to install than MIMESweeper, we were very impressed with the level of features on offer. This is a powerful message filtering and anti-spam solution suited to the enterprise, but at a price point that makes it appealing to smaller businesses as well. **NC**

**Product:** MIMESweeper for SMTP 5.0

**Supplier:** Clearswift

**Telephone:** 0118 903 8903

**Web site:** [www.clearswift.com](http://www.clearswift.com)

**Price:** From £950 ex. VAT for 50 users