

There are no limitations on the threats entering the enterprise in email messages, but there are tools to protect network systems, says Peter Stephenson.

This category covers protection of the enterprise from things that can ride an email message into your enterprise. Arguably, there are only two ways into a secure enterprise from the outside: email and web services. We control web services through secure programming and good architec-

tures. We control email by forcing it through gateways that look for things that could harm us.

There are no limitations on the threats that could enter the enterprise in an email. So the issue becomes how many email-borne threat classes can a gateway catch. And, equally important, what will

be the overall impact on the network's performance?

We saw one overriding characteristic this month: more is more. These products expected everything but the kitchen sink to be thrown at them, and they usually have the means necessary to protect against just about any type of email threat.

MIMEsweeper



Vendor Clearswift
Price starts at \$3,546 for 50 users
Contact www.clearswift.com

The Clearswift MIMEsweeper Email Appliance has several nice features, including a solid content filter and email protection from spam, malware and undesirable content. We found this product to be a pumped up email data leakage prevention device with solid email protection. The content filter can filter out email, which contains profanity and inappropriate content, sensitive and confidential data and malware, such as viruses, worms and trojans.

The tool was quite simple to deploy and manage. The installation took just a few minutes and was guided by an intuitive setup wizard. Once this installation was

complete, we just pointed the mail server to send mail to the appliance and we were up and running. The web-based GUI is simple to navigate and we found that several pre-defined policies left little extra configuration needed.

This product performed quite well during our tests and it plugged into the environment easily with no trouble. The pre-defined policies were comprehensive and contained a good set of rules to jumpstart the initial filtering. The addition of a data leakage prevention policy in the way of expressions, such as credit card numbers, Social Security numbers and customizable expressions, makes this a well-rounded appliance. It can not only stop threats and inappropriate content, but also keep sensitive information from leaving the enterprise.

Documentation included a getting started guide and an evaluation guide. Both include diagrams and screen shots.

Customers can purchase a support contract which gives access to unrestricted telephone and email support, software updates, anti-virus updates and real-time spam update.

With a price of just over \$25,000 for 500 users, this appliance may seem quite pricey. However, it does have solid features, which combine not only virus, spyware and spam protection, but also provide a comprehensive and granular set of compliance policies. We find this product to be a good value for the money.

SC MAGAZINE RATING

Features	★★★★★
Ease of use	★★★★★
Performance	★★★★★
Documentation	★★★★☆
Support	★★★★☆
Value for money	★★★★☆

OVERALL RATING ★★★★★

Strengths Easy to plug into the environment and start filtering right away.

Weaknesses High cost of ownership.

Verdict An easy-to-use product that is priced a bit on the high side.



Easy to plug into the environment and start filtering right away.

Peter Stephenson



CLEARSWIFT
MIMEsweeper™
 Simplifying content security

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