

MPP Case Study

Mexis, Managed Security Provider

Overview

In this case study we will present Mexis, a prominent Managed Security Provider, and discuss why they chose the Message Processing Platform (MPP) to provide spam and virus protection for their email filtering service and hosted email customers.

Mexis – Managed Security Provider

Staying ahead of the latest data security threats is no easy job. Sure, there are myriad security products such as firewalls, intrusion detection and prevention systems, virus and spam filters, content filters and more, but creating a cohesive security policy is a bigger job than choosing products. An effective security policy includes best practices, effective tools and an experienced IT staff focused on security issues. Unfortunately many small and medium sized businesses are faced with shrinking IT budgets and it is not feasible to have the expertise and resources required to proactively respond to today's data security challenges.

Businesses need trusted security partners to capitalize on the opportunities that the Internet has created; this is the challenge that drives Mexis – a leading Managed Security Provider (MSP) for small and medium sized businesses in Mexico.

Mexis began as an Internet provider and has grown into a premier Managed Security Provider, offering many security services including managed firewall and VPN, intrusion detection and prevention, patch management, server monitoring, shared and dedicated hosting, managed antivirus, email hosting and email virus and spam filtering. Mexis stands behind their solutions with an experienced team of leading IT security experts in Mexico – a team that few businesses, of any size, could replicate.

A Mexis solution begins with detailed needs analysis and follows with an efficient deployment of the optimal technology solution. After deployment, all solutions are monitored from the Security Operations Center (SOC), which is staffed 24 hours a day with experienced IT security professionals who instantly respond to security incidents and perform critical proactive tasks such as patch management and product maintenance. Leading companies such as Opticas Devlyn, a fashion eye wear company and Multipack, one of Mexico's largest motor carriers, rely on the experience of Mexis to plan, deploy and monitor their security services.

Mexis Email Services and MPP

Email is a mission critical application for most businesses and the fast pace of email virus outbreaks and the shift in spam from an annoyance to criminal enterprise has made email security a top concern. As a result, virus and spam filtering is one of the most important service offerings that Mexis provides. Mexis provides email security as a managed service to customers with their own email servers or to hosted customers.

Over the years Mexis has used a variety of email security products ranging from high-end appliances to home grown systems to open source tools to meet the demands of their disparate customer base, however, no single solution fit the bill for all customers. Mexis needs the flexibility to apply high-performance commercial spam and virus filtering for business-class customers with SLA's (service level agreements) and open source technology for legacy Internet access customers. Moreover, they need a unified management platform to configure and monitor all aspects of the filtering services and a Spanish language end-user interface to manage email archives and spam quarantines that integrates with their existing customer systems.

Mexis keeps an eye on future services and business customers are increasingly concerned with regulatory compliance issues related to email and the email security platform should be able to respond to tomorrow's compliance challenges.

MPP – Message Processing Platform

Baed on these requirements and others Mexis chose MPP to meet their diverse email security needs. MPP ends the rip-out cycle of ineffective antispam products with its unique middleware approach to email security. MPP offers the best features of email security appliances but with the flexibility of custom developed solutions. MPP integrates with their existing email platforms, allowed for complete customization of all customer facing interfaces, provides the flexibility to selectively apply open source and commercial scan technology and offers flexible financing options.

At the core of MPP is the high-performance policy-engine, which enables per-customer configuration of filtering and compliance services. The policy engine integrates with LDAP subscriber directories for fast provisioning of new services without manual administrative steps. A small sampling of configuration options of MPP includes scanner choices, attachment filtering, virus and spam actions, warning schemes, disclaimers, denial of service prevention, access control lists, engine serialization, archival formats, content filtering and more.

The MPP core supports many scanner modules including Cloudmark, F-PROT, ClamAV, SpamAssassin, Sophos, Mail Shell and Kaspersky and the modules may be combined on a per-policy basis. Mexis chose the MPP spam, phishing and fraud module based on Cloudmark technology for their business class customers because of its superior performance, low system load and detection rates above 97% with extremely low false positives. Additionally, the F-PROT module was selected for anti virus detection.

Other factors in the MPP selection process included OS support, quarantine options, mail server support and flexible deployment options. MPP supports their operating system of choice, Linux, and it supports their email server platform, CommuniGate Pro. Additionally, the license allows MPP to be deployed on SMTP filtering proxies and directly on email servers, but all MPP deployments use centralized quarantine and archival with MySQL.

Conclusion

Mexis is one of the leading managed security providers in Mexico and they are successful because of their dedicated and experienced team and vendor partnerships. MPP fits Mexis and other email service provider environments because it offers the right balance of performance, customization, interoperability and technologies that service providers demand. Email service providers that use MPP will have the flexibility to differentiate their service offerings in the market place, reduce their development costs and offer cutting-edge technology to their customers.

To learn more about MPP and Message Partners please visit <http://messagepartners.com>

To learn about Mexis please visit <http://mexis.net>