

## Cannes Film Festival

## EVENTS

The Cannes Film Festival is the third largest worldwide media event after the Olympic Games and the football World Cup. Every year in May, the festival, together with the Film Market, is host to around 30,000 movie professionals, including 4000 journalists, from all over the world.



Each and every aspect of an event like the Cannes Film Festival needs to be planned a long time before it actually starts. Organising the event is the job of a Paris-based organisational team which includes 20 year-round permanent members and up to 80 additional members from January onwards. This number increases to more than 1200 during the ten days of the event.

The team is responsible for setting up the event's entire optical-fibre stand-alone network of 300 desktops and six monitoring servers within the Palais du Festival enclosure. Since the 2003 event, the Cannes Film Festival has relied on Sophos and its software to protect the network against possible virus attack.

The computer network for the Cannes Film Festival is designed primarily for the organisers, but is also used by the visitors to the event. The network includes 40 computers equipped with email and broadband internet access for use by the media. Journalists can use the computers to write and send their articles around the world, using graphics from the Festival image bank hosted by a dedicated server.

The network provides excellent working conditions for the Festival participants, but could present a potential nightmare for the organisers if the system were not completely secure.

### Key facts

#### Organisation

Cannes Film Festival

#### Location

Paris

#### Servers

6 during the Festival

#### Desktops

More than 300

#### Solution

Sophos Anti-Virus

*"Sophos's exceptional support really appealed to us. 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, their experts are on-hand to answer our calls, ready to solve any problems. This level of responsiveness is invaluable for us!"*

*Cédric Lemoigne, IT Director,  
Cannes Film Festival*

“Due to its scale as well as its brevity, the Festival puts us under considerable strain as each minute detail has to be thought of well in advance. There shouldn't be any problems during the Festival's run – especially not a virus”, says Cédric Lemoigne, in charge of the Festival's IT department. “In previous years, we've had two 'hot' virus alerts – first I Love You, then Klez. These made us very aware of the need to get a powerful and reliable anti-virus solution. In 2003 we chose Sophos, the only vendor capable of perfectly meeting our needs. For us, Sophos can be summed up in two words: efficiency and responsiveness,” he continues.

“Our first requirement, which is obvious given our working conditions, is that the remote deployment and administration of the anti-virus software on the desktops has to be easy. Secondly, we must be able to control everything at every moment and from a single point,” says Lemoigne.

Sophos's suite of administration tools, allows the Festival's IT department to monitor the desktops continuously ensuring that the protection is in place and active on each of them, regardless of who the user is. EM Library provides automatic updates, several times a day, of the latest virus identities (IDEs) published by Sophos.

Lemoigne recalls the impact that Klez had on the system, “It attacked us in 2002 a few hours after it cropped up on the internet, even before we were aware of its existence, and caused significant damage to our network. This was an unfortunate experience we didn't want to relive. But from now on it will no longer be possible!” As an extra level of protection, Sophos allows for the updating of mobile or remote machines which are not continuously linked to the local network.



Another important quality for Lemoigne is the fact that Sophos Anti-Virus does not take up much space on the workstations and therefore does not slow them down. It also cannot be disabled or uninstalled by end users. Even if one of the protected machines is replaced on the network by a laptop, the control console identifies it immediately and can force the installation of the anti-virus software onto the “hacker” machine. This is a critical issue when most of the computers' users are unknown to the Festival team.

“The last, but not the least, important factor which appealed to us with Sophos was its exceptional support. Unlike many vendors, we can contact them 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Their specialists answer our calls personally, ready to solve problems and process our requests for urgent information. We always strive to plan ahead, but if anything unexpected happens during the Festival, Sophos's responsiveness will be very invaluable!” concludes Lemoigne.

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