

## Ison Harrison

## LEGAL

Ison Harrison protects its staff with Sophos Endpoint Security and Control, and wanted to extend its desktop protection to ensure risk-free web browsing. The company already used a URL filter to block certain categories of website, but wanted to protect employees from malware and unsuitable content, regardless of site. Sophos Web Security and Control now protects staff from adware, viruses, spyware and other malware that could threaten network security.



### Business challenge

Founded in 1978, Ison Harrison is one of the leading law practices in the north of England, providing individual and business clients with professional expertise and practical advice. With a head office in Leeds and three other offices in the area, the firm employs a staff of around 180. All the company's desktop users have been protected by Sophos Endpoint Security and Control for many years, and protection is currently being extended to the laptops used by its remote workers.

As a responsible employer, Ison Harrison wants to ensure that its staff are also shielded from unsuitable websites. It uses

SurfControl URL filtering to block sites in particular categories, but wanted to go further by filtering out undesirable content from all web sources. Seemingly innocent sites can still conceal malware that could compromise the security of the company's network, or introduce adware that is not relevant or suitable in a business environment.

According to IT manager Adrian Barker, "Two of our Citrix servers were infected with adware recently, and as on-access scanning here would be inappropriate, we decided to look at Sophos Web Security and Control." He continues, "Gateway protection is the most effective way of

### Key facts

#### Company

Ison Harrison

#### Headquarters

Leeds, UK

#### No of users

180, including 60 Citrix users and 5 remote users

#### Web traffic

1 GB per day

#### Servers

Windows, Citrix

#### Solutions

Sophos Endpoint Security and Control  
Sophos Web Security and Control

*"The instructions for setting up the Sophos Web Appliance were so straightforward, I thought I didn't need them. We were filtering web traffic within ten minutes and ready to deploy in just half an hour."*

*Adrian Barker, IT Manager,  
Ison Harrison*

tackling this weakness in our defences, and although we also considered a MessageLabs solution, it was ruled out on the grounds of cost.”

## Technology solution

URL filtering solutions are fine for controlling website access, but are not equipped to deliver timely and effective security against the expanding range and sources of web-based threats. Ison Harrison was happy to keep its URL filter at the gateway, but needed a complementary solution that would filter inbound web content, not just outbound page requests. Barker says, “We handle around 1 GB of web traffic each day, 80% of which is inbound. We wanted to avoid the kind of cleanup that has been required for even the mildest form of adware, and ensure that our staff and network are protected from any content that might pose a security threat.”

Ison Harrison purchased the Sophos WS1000 Web Appliance, siting it downstream of the URL filter and a firewall. Although Barker spent some time on testing, he found it was very simple to deploy effectively. He claims, “The instructions were so straightforward that I thought I didn’t need them. Installation after reading the instructions took about ten minutes to actually start filtering web traffic, and about 30 minutes to set up suitably for deployment.”

Sophos Web Security and Control provides protection against the complete range of web threats – including spyware, adware, viruses, malicious code, unwanted applications and undesirable content. Filtering interferes minimally with browsing, thanks to a full-spectrum scanning engine that detects all threats in a single rapid pass, while a built-in cache provides quick access to frequently accessed sites. Barker explains, “Although latency is not normally an issue for us, as 70% of our traffic is to the same research sites, the WS1000 displays a browser message to let the user know if a file is going to take some time to scan.” He adds, “When we had a latency problem associated with other network changes, Sophos support were in touch before I was aware of it.”

The Sophos WS1000 updates its protection automatically every five minutes from SophosLabs™ – a global network of threat analysis centres. Sophos listens for connection



failures, using remote “heartbeat” monitoring to ensure that every WS1000 continuously receives updates, and contacts customers to initiate resolution of any problems. These features deliver the benefits of a managed service, while retaining the visibility into system performance that only an appliance can provide. Coordinated management of security policy is simple via a web-based console which has a powerful dashboard with point-and-click customisation. Visual indicators and reports provide administrators with actionable information on security, suspect computers, and content filtering performance.

## Business results

Barker confirms, “Overall, the Sophos Web Appliance is excellent. It is very easy to use and get quick information on traffic levels and system health. Malware detection is very good, and now that we have better protection we have been able to relax our internet access policies to allow users to use things like webmail.” He continues, “Although services such as GoogleMail check for viruses, we can protect our network without needing to rely on that.”

Summing up, Barker says, “We have fixed a weak area by providing continuous protection to the network and our users without disrupting traffic through our Citrix servers. No longer do I see a user visit a site and something odd happening – wondering whether it’s a virus, spyware or some other piece of malware, while trying to troubleshoot. Sophos Web Security and Control provides peace of mind that all web traffic is being checked for malware, and is a great addition to desktop and server scanning.”

To find out how Sophos products can help protect your organisation, visit [www.sophos.com/products](http://www.sophos.com/products)