

Case study: internet sector

SpaceNet AG

SpaceNet AG is an independent internet service provider (ISP). The company provides a wide range of web solutions: from fast internet access to the programming of web applications. To protect customers' email accounts from viruses, SpaceNet uses I-Sec Mail. The core of the application utilises Sophos's virus engine which has been integrated with I-Sec Mail using SAV Interface.



SpaceNet – the headquarters in Munich.

Through I-Sec Mail, SpaceNet is able to meet its customers' demands for effective virus protection. Since October 2001, the program has scanned all emails and attachments passing through the provider's servers. After being checked for viruses, the emails are forwarded to its customers' accounts or mail servers.

During development of the solution, SpaceNet focused on finding a reliable virus scanner, which is the foundation of I-Sec Mail's virus protection. Because of this, the company tested a number of anti-virus

solutions from different manufacturers. Once the testing was completed, SpaceNet decided to choose Sophos Anti-Virus.

“We are very happy that we have found such a competent and cooperative partner in the anti-virus sector.”

Sebastian von Bomhard, company founder and chairman of the board at SpaceNet AG

SpaceNet is an internet service provider (ISP) that sets high standards for itself and its products, in order to serve its customers' best interests. This starts with the performance of its internet connections and ends with providing secure email accounts.

The best example of this is SpaceNet's own internet network. In order to provide customers with the highest transmission rates, the network is directly connected with critical internet intersections throughout Europe and overseas.

Since it was founded in 1993, SpaceNet has gained a high reputation within the IT industry. Today, the ISP has a wide-ranging network of cooperative partners and has a presence in all economically important regions of Germany.

Viruses, worms and Trojan horses propagate themselves principally via email. Because of this, SpaceNet has found that more and more customers are asking for secure virus protection for email. By introducing I-Sec Mail, the company has met the demands of its customers.

From the very start, SpaceNet intended that I-Sec Mail would be an application service provider (ASP) solution. That is why the company looked not only for anti-virus software, but also for a virus scanner that could best serve as the foundation of the application.

For SpaceNet, the most important aspect of the chosen solution was reliability. "To start with, anti-virus protection that might not work absolutely correctly as part of our ASP model would have been a fatal error," says Sebastian von Bomhard. SpaceNet's founder is well aware of the responsibility he has for his customers, which include the broadcasting station Bayerischer Rundfunk and Munich Airport. An additional factor was that SpaceNet

did not want to risk damaging its reputation by using an inferior product.

Another of SpaceNet's requirements was that the application should be able to run on FreeBSD, the operating system used by its mail servers. Further requirements included easy integration with its mailing program "qmail", and the ability to process 20,000 emails each day.

Before a decision was made on which anti-virus software to choose, SpaceNet tested products from a number of highly-rated vendors. After completing the tests, SpaceNet decided to choose Sophos. Sebastian von Bomhard summarises the reasons why: "The most important aspect about Sophos Anti-Virus is that it provides high-quality virus protection together with excellent performance."

After the decision was taken, both companies started work on the project. Because I-Sec Mail was envisaged as an ASP solution, the Sophos Anti-Virus virus engine needed to be integrated with the "qmail" mailing program. This was carried out quickly and simply using SAV Interface. With SAV Interface the virus engine can be easily integrated with other third-party products. Markus Stumpf was responsible for the implementation. It took SpaceNet's head of Research and Development only 18 hours to complete.

Since October 2001, I-Sec Mail has scanned all emails and attachments passing through SpaceNet's servers for viruses. It filters out all infected messages, so that only virus-free emails are forwarded to its customers.

I-Sec Mail continues to prove its importance for SpaceNet. In October 2002 alone, 532,000 emails were scanned and 4270 viruses found. To ensure continued success in the fight against viruses, SpaceNet uses

Sophos's automatic updating service. With its 24/7 support the anti-virus expert keeps I-Sec Mail up to date at all times.



Safe and fast: I-Sec Mail scans approximately 20,000 emails every day.

SpaceNet's customers are also pleased with the chosen anti-virus solution. Martin Lange, system administrator at ITG, a transport and logistics service provider, says: "We have many reasons to be satisfied with I-Sec Mail's ASP solution. Since we implemented it, we've had absolutely no infected emails sneaking into our network."

Fact file

Company:	SpaceNet AG
Headquarters:	Munich, Germany
Employees:	55
Product:	I-Sec Mail
Mail server:	qmail run on FreeBSD
Size of emails:	> 40 GB per month
Anti Virus:	SAV Interface

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