SOPHOS

Using Sophos UTM, Sophos Mobile Control, and Sophos Endpoint Protection, the **City of Airdrie** is simplifying and unifying security management and reporting across all devices, reducing administrative costs, and strengthening compliance. By providing automated software updates, easy device tracking, and extensive control over apps and network access, Sophos Mobile Control establishes the security infrastructure Airdrie needs to deliver and support any high-value mobile solution it chooses.

Customer-at-a-Glance

City of Airdrie
Airdrie, Alberta, Canada

Industry
Government

Sophos Solutions
Sophos UTM
Sophos Mobile Control
Sophos Endpoint Protection

No of Users
375+

Located 10 minutes north of Calgary in Alberta, Canada, the City of Airdrie is one of Canada's fastest growing communities. Now home to 43,155 people, it combines a small town lifestyle with big city amenities, a wide range of housing options in both new and established neighborhoods, and strong employment opportunities in retail, construction, manufacturing, and professional services.

"When it came to mobility, desktop, and server protection with one client managed through one pane of glass, overall impact to our systems, and the ability to automatically uninstall existing security software, Sophos fit the bill."

PAUL HURST
Network Administrator, City of Airdrie

Business Challenge

The government of the City of Airdrie serves a fast-growing, fast-changing community -- and it aims to do so while maintaining strict cost control, accountability, and compliance. To help meet these challenges, Airdrie's IT organization needed to systematically upgrade its security management infrastructure.

In previous years, says Network Administrator Paul Hurst, Airdrie had struggled with security products that were ineffective and costly to manage. "We'd found numerous Trojans and other infections while Trend was running, which led us to perform a systemwide shutdown to clean every single PC. We also experienced random issues we could not explain. Even full system scans were not detecting all infections." To overcome these challenges, Airdrie sought a new endpoint protection solution.

Meanwhile, as Airdrie moved to support more mobile devices, it faced greater complexity and many new control challenges. These included difficulties in enforcing policies, updating operating systems, avoiding unsafe apps, and safeguarding network access. In response, Airdrie sought a mobile security control solution that could handle its current smartphones and iPads while also supporting new technologies later. Ideally, the right solution would also allow Airdrie to unify security management across all devices -- desktop, server, and mobile.

Technology Solution

The City of Airdrie considered endpoint and mobile solutions from Sophos, Symantec, Trend, McAfee, and AVG. It also drew on previous positive experience with Sophos solutions, including the Sophos UTM.

Says Hurst, "The web security subscription within the Sophos UTM saved us more than 75% compared with older software, and also provided real-time reporting. Later, the cost of the Sophos web and email security subscriptions was comparable to renewing our existing anti-spam product alone; however, Sophos offered more capabilities." Also, with Sophos email security, the amount of time employees spent handling spam plummeted by 97%.

Airdrie ultimately chose Sophos Endpoint Protection and Sophos Mobile Control. Says Hurst, "When it came to mobility, desktop, and server protection with one client managed through one pane of glass, overall impact on our systems, and the ability to automatically uninstall existing security software, Sophos fit the bill."

Several additional factors also pointed to Sophos. "Some security providers weren't adequately concerned about providing rapid updates to head off zero day exploits. Sophos provides the response we need. Sophos supports compliance by alerting us to possible infections based on policy, even if they can't immediately be cleaned. The ability to remotely manage data and device security was also important.

"Right now, the only tablets we use are iPads, but this could change. Sophos Mobile Control can be integrated into future tablets; this was valuable to us. So was app control. End users expect companies like Apple or RIM to protect their information, but nothing guarantees that published apps are safe. With Sophos, we can specify which apps may be installed.

"Right now, we don't support 'Bring Your Own Device,' continues Hurst. "But, as consumer devices become the norm, organizations are looking to BYOD to save money. Without safeguards, BYOD puts organizations at greater risk of infection, compromised data, and data theft. With Sophos Mobile Control, we can establish policies that deny access until specific compliance levels are met. This means we can potentially consider BYOD, reducing equipment costs without impacting security or staff."

Total Mobile Device Control With Sophos Mobile Control, you can automatically update device operating systems, restrict apps, track devices, and strictly control network access.

"We offer employees a wide selection of mobile devices. The ability to overlay all these devices with mobile control was critical to our choice of Sophos."

ERIC GOULDEN
Server Administrator, City of Airdrie

Business Results

The City of Airdrie is already gaining multiple benefits from its Sophos deployment, and anticipates more. "The Sophos appliance already works well in protecting us at the gate," says Hurst. "With Sophos Endpoint Protection, our internal systems have the same level of protection.

"With Sophos, we can review quarantined items and infections more efficiently. Desktop rollouts have become simple and effective, and no longer require onsite manual intervention. Protection is more visible. We can manage individual desktops to different levels of protection. And we expect that bringing mobility, desktop, and server security management together through one client will reduce the time we spend managing devices -- so we won't need additional staff to administer our growing infrastructure."

Find out how we can help protect your organization.

Visit www.sophos.com

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