The Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust consolidates IT security systems and delivers smartcard encryption authentication

Data and Security Manager Karl Kroger works alongside a team of 12 others at The Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust. Human resource has been reduced in the IT office due to budget cuts across the NHS, yet the team face increasing numbers of viruses and threats every single day, as well as increased staff demands for quick and easy access to systems.

“We were faced with a number of cost improvement projects and also delivering technologies to make staff and the organisation more efficient.”

KARL KROGER
Data and Security Manager
The Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust
The Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust serves almost half a million people in East Anglia. Covering an area of 46 acres and with almost 8,000 people on site during the day, the hospital is the size of a small town. With so many people relying on the organisation for healthcare services, Ipswich Hospital needs a secure and reliable IT system to ensure the smooth daily running of the institution.

“All our security is now controlled in a much more intelligible way. This, together with the rapid reduction in technical support calls made by staff, has made our security remit simpler and easy-to-manage.”

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Data and Security Manager
The Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust

**Business Challenge**

The IT team at The Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust faced a number of challenges:

- They needed to secure large amounts of sensitive information, and keep their networks up-to-date and protected, from the latest viruses, malware and spyware.
- They needed to change from using multiple vendor security solutions to a consolidated alternative, to provide the best protection they possibly could, as well as achieving cost and time saving benefits.
- They also faced increasing demands for quick and easy access to encrypted machines, especially where multiple users were accessing the same device.

**Technology solution**

Defending the 2,500 office-based and mobile devices at The Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust is now simple with Sophos UTM, integrating:

- Firewall, VPN, IPS, email, web filtering and app control
- Built-in reporting
- An integrated wireless controller
- An intuitive browser based interface
- Hardware, virtualised, software or cloud based appliance options

By using Sophos UTM Karl was immediately able to see improvements to efficiency. “A range of security elements are now controlled in a much more intelligible way. This, together with the rapid reduction in technical support calls made by staff, has made our security remit simpler and easy-to-manage.”
“I would certainly recommend Sophos to other NHS Trusts – they provide a wide range of good products with aggressive pricing.”

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Sophos UTM gives the team complete security - from the network firewall to web filtering - in a single modular appliance. In particular Karl is impressed with Sophos Mobile Control, the ability to set more granular policies, and the capability to protect 200 iPads that are being used on the move - on and off Trust premises - by doctors and other clinicians.

The team have installed three UTM boxes and they are being used as:

1. An internet proxy for traffic via the N3 network
2. A reverse proxy protecting web servers and mobile traffic
3. An internet proxy via a direct internet link, providing web access over a patient Wi-Fi service

Sophos Safeguard Encryption also provides peace of mind for Karl and the team who are ultimately responsible for protecting the Trust against data loss and associated fines. Additionally, the smartcard login functionality allows multiple users to access programs and systems securely, using their NHS smartcards.

Business Results

By unifying network security with Sophos UTM, the IT team have seen improvements to performance and efficiency. “From an efficiency point of view, it was vital that we deployed a simple, easy-to-use but comprehensive solution,” says Karl. “With common and straightforward interfaces, the UTM delivers this, and we also have richer functionality.”

“A highlight of this project was the support we received from Sophos,” continues Karl. “We now have a manageable and cost-effective solution – a solid defence for our IT infrastructure. I would certainly recommend Sophos to other NHS Trusts – they provide a wide range of good products with aggressive pricing.’

Karl lists the main benefits of working with Sophos as:

- A solid understanding of the NHS
- Outstanding interaction with the NHS team
- Excellent pricing
- Good products and a wide range of functionality
- Roadmap availability
- Service and support, day and night
- Partner Foursys who work alongside Karl and his team