



Case Study

UK's Institute of Directors Consolidates Web Security Using Finjan's Vital Security™ Web Appliance



Challenge

Consolidate IoD's Internet security infrastructure into one solution, with a single point of management, provisioning and reporting

Solution

Vital Security Web Appliance NG-1100, providing proactive and comprehensive web security for small and medium-sized organizations

Results

Streamlined security architecture, enhanced performance and reduction in management efforts and resources

Background

Founded in 1903, the Institute of Directors (IoD) is a highly respected organization in the UK's business sector. Its membership includes over 55,000 directors of British companies, who count on the IoD to provide the information and advice they require to help their businesses succeed.

Headquartered in three London buildings, the IoD maintains ten regional offices located throughout the UK (see map). An efficient and secure information and communication infrastructure is critical for supporting its nationwide operations. Moreover, as a leader in the business community, the IoD cannot afford to compromise when it comes to Internet security. The task of keeping the IoD network secure falls on the shoulders of Richard Swann, IT Infrastructure Manager. **"Security is a business issue. The IoD is committed to informing businesses about Internet-based threats such as Spyware and Phishing, and how they can protect themselves from these hazards,"** states Swann.

The IoD regional offices are connected via a hardware-based VPN to the head office, from which all Internet access and web browsing is routed via a single point-of-presence. Over 280 users around the UK access centralized applications over the network. The IoD has historically used security solutions from Finjan and several other in-house and third-party solutions to protect its users from Internet-based threats.

Business Challenge and Requirements

The IoD security framework grew over time into three separate security infrastructures using several disparate solutions (anti-spam, anti-virus, home grown URL filtering, VPN and different proxies). In order to streamline business operations, reduce management overhead and ultimately save money, **the IoD decided to consolidate the majority of its existing infrastructure into one solution, with a single point of management, provisioning and reporting.**

The IoD needed the ability to define specific security policies for different groups of users. For instance, the Information and Advisory Service staff needed access to Internet without restrictions in order to support the IoD Business Information service, which handles members' call-in queries. The IoD used to route different groups of users through several different proxies, creating management issues and adding maintenance overhead that taxed its limited IT resources. The IoD also used to maintain its own lists of permitted and forbidden URLs. With respect to inappropriate content, the IoD has a very strict Internet usage policy and the ability to enforce this policy using a commercially available product was seen as a major advantage, not to mention the associated reductions in administration overhead.

In light of the plethora of Spyware, Phishing and other web-based attacks that can compromise personal information, **IoD required a solution that would protect its staff and members from potential identity theft.**



Vital Security™
Web Appliance NG-1100



IoD Offices



Directors Room, Pall Mall

"Finjan is the market leader with a proven system"

Richard Swann, IT Infrastructure Manager

Finjan's Vital Security™ Web Appliance Solution

With these requirements in mind, the IoD chose to implement Finjan's Vital Security Web Appliance NG-1100 as the platform upon which to consolidate its web security infrastructure. As a satisfied customer of Finjan's software-based solutions since 1999, the IoD hardly considered other options: **"Finjan is the market leader with a proven system, so why look elsewhere?"** said Swann. Moreover, Finjan was able to offer IoD an attractive migration plan so that it could continue to benefit from superior web security on a high-performance appliance.

Specially designed for small to medium-sized businesses, the NG-1100 delivers the world's best and most comprehensive web security in an all-in-one, easy to install and "self-managing" appliance. It integrates Finjan's unique security technologies (behavior-based security, zero-hour vulnerability protection, Anti-Spyware engine, Content Filtering) with leading Anti-Virus (Sophos®), and URL Filtering (SurfControl®) engines.

Finjan's patented behavior-based content inspection technology identifies and blocks known and unknown viruses and malicious code, usually before anti-virus vendors have issued an update, a fact that the IoD and Swann had come to rely upon over the last five years. **"We are very conscious of the potential dangers inherent in ActiveX and Java which can be used to exploit software vulnerabilities. Finjan's proactive solutions excel in blocking these types of sophisticated attacks,"** said Swann.

In addition to Finjan's proven security technology, the efficiencies and powerful synergies created through managing web security through a single appliance, as well as granular policy management, were key factors in the IoD's decision.

As a result of the migration, IoD was able to streamline its security architecture from several different solutions to a single NG-1100 appliance for web and proxy. The transition to Finjan's solution freed up one key IT resource, charged with supporting its various security solutions, for other important tasks. **"Finjan's proactive protection against Spyware and other malware threats has allowed us to concentrate on core business activities, without spending inordinate resources handling security incidents and cleaning infected computers,"** concludes Swann.

Key Benefits and Results

Finjan's Vital Security Web Appliance solution enabled IoD to meet fully its business requirements:

- Comprehensive "all-in-one" solution for web security in a single secure, reliable and low administration appliance
- Integrated content security including behavior-based security, vulnerability protection, anti-spyware, anti-virus, content filtering, URL filtering
- Reduction in complexity and administrative overhead by simplifying the previous architecture built upon multiple proxies and disparate solutions
- Enhanced performance and productivity of users
- Enabled the IoD to reduce security administration and management efforts by one full IT resource
- Reduced patch management overhead due to Finjan's "hardened" OS and automatic updates (fed by Finjan), with the added benefit of no 3rd party OS license fee

" Finjan's NG-1100 appliance provides the IoD with the same level of security and content management deployed by large enterprises, with a single point of administration and reporting, at an affordable price for an organization of our size. "



Richard Swann,
IT Infrastructure Manager

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Finjan - Securing Your Web



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