

There are no limitations on the threats entering the enterprise in email messages, but there are tools to protect network systems, says **Peter Stephenson**.

This category covers protection of the enterprise from things that can ride an email message into your enterprise. Arguably, there are only two ways into a secure enterprise from the outside: email and web services. We control web services through secure programming and good architec-

tures. We control email by forcing it through gateways that look for things that could harm us.

There are no limitations on the threats that could enter the enterprise in an email. So the issue becomes how many email-borne threat classes can a gateway catch. And, equally important, what will

be the overall impact on the network's performance?

We saw one overriding characteristic this month: more is more. These products expected everything but the kitchen sink to be thrown at them, and they usually have the means necessary to protect against just about any type of email threat.

ES1000



Vendor Sophos

Price \$3,295

Contact www.sophos.com

The Sophos ES1000 provides a full realm of email content management and security features. It comes with spam and malware protection provided by Sophos anti-virus and anti-spam engines, which use genotype, proactive detection technologies, IP reputation services and SXL real-time updating service, all from Sophos. The appliance also has a strong policy-based content filter, as well as protection from harvesting or denial-of-service attacks.

From the moment we took this product out of the box, we had an easy time using it. Setup is done out-of-band through a second network interface card (NIC) so the appliance NIC stays connected at all times. We found this to be a very useful feature because there is no

re-setting of IP addresses after configuration. All setup is done using a web-based setup wizard, which is quick and easy. Once the appliance is up and running, management is done through a web-based GUI, which is also easy to use and simple to navigate.

This device can integrate directly into the existing LDAP user and group structure, so plugging it into the environment is quite seamless. Once connected, policies can be assigned with ease based on this structure. In fact, we had some granular policies setup after just a few clicks.

We only received a setup guide and reviewer's guide. The short setup guide focused mostly on mounting the appliance with very little on setup procedure. The reviewer's guide was well organized and quite helpful in showcasing product features and included many screen shots.

With the purchase of the device license, customers get 24/7 phone support, as well as web-based and email support. There is also a support area on the website that includes a knowledge base and product information. Other support options can be purchased at extra cost. Some of these options include remote support, help desk training and a dedicated support account manager.

At a price just shy of \$3,300, this product is a great value for the money. It brings together solid email protection in an easy-to-use and easy-to-manage product.

SC MAGAZINE RATING

Features	★★★★★
Ease of use	★★★★★
Performance	★★★★★
Documentation	★★★★☆
Support	★★★★★
Value for money	★★★★★

OVERALL RATING ★★★★★

Strengths Low cost, comprehensive email content management.

Weaknesses Documentation could be a bit stronger.

Verdict The kind of strong malware protection you would expect from a leader in the field.



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