



‘We picked the Network Box because it had a better range of features than the competitors’ products available and, most importantly, because it is managed by the company itself.’

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Practice Business Manager

KAIM TODNER SOLICITORS
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Ray Prentice-Garner describes his experiences with the Network Box internet security appliance

INDUSTRY Law

Managing your internet security to block viruses and all the other nasties is like eating enough vegetables or going to the gym — everyone knows it is good for you, but keeping up with it day-to-day is far from easy. At Kaim Todner Solicitors, we decided to go with a managed security appliance from Network Box, which claimed it would do all of the updating and maintenance for us and keep the threats at bay.

We have four offices: in the City of London; Islington; Southwark; and a regional office in Witney, Oxfordshire. The offices are linked by a fibre-optic network, so our staff are able to communicate effectively at all times. Kaim Todner covers cases ranging from magistrates courts to the House of Lords, and provides a 24-hour emergency service for those under arrest, meaning

we need access to the latest information technology.

Until relatively recently, we had taken a safety-first approach, and had separate desktop PCs at each branch, which accessed the internet. The internet was not on the network due to security considerations.

We then decided that we wanted to add internet access to our system. But how best to ensure we were fully protected against viruses, spam and the other threats that are out there on the internet?

After carefully reviewing the products available, we selected the Network Box internet security appliance. This is an ‘all-in-one’ solution — one box contains features to block viruses, spyware, spam emails and intrusions from hackers, as well as a firewall and content filtering.

We wanted something that is separate from our main server so that the server is protected — in my opinion, it is better and safer to keep this distinction with a separate appliance, rather than

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having security software running on the server.

Having decided on a security appliance, we picked the Network Box because it had a better range of features than the competitors' products available and, most importantly, because it is managed by the company itself. This means that Network Box's people control the configuration and maintenance of the appliance remotely, and handle the regular updates needed to keep the security protection on top of any new threats.

With many of the other products that we considered, I would have had to manage it myself or pay for a separate, outsourced service. In reality, I would probably have had to get someone else to deal with it as I have many other tasks, and security would not have been at the top of the importance list.

The Network Box appliance sits in front of our central servers, and all internet links from our four offices go through it. This covers about 100 people, using 60 PCs — there is some hot-desking and sharing of computers.

The Network Box is blocking viruses for us, and we use the content filtering to control surfing the net to stop people looking at things that are not appropriate during office hours. The content filtering is probably the only time when our users are aware of the Network Box — when websites they are trying to look at get blocked. If anything we do need is blocked by default, we can easily get this unblocked, and I can do this myself with menu-driven controls, or just

ask Network Box to do it for me.

We also use the spam blocking features: spam e-mails are identified and diverted to a separate mailbox that we can delete in one go. We could check in there to see if any genuine, non-spam e-mails have been diverted by mistake, but in practice we don't, and we have not had any problems with this happening.

The Network Box also provides a firewall, which is essential for any firm or company of our size. Its firewall uses a hybrid of the latest technologies to provide the best protection. We did have a firewall from another company beforehand, but the Network Box came in cheaper for the whole solution than this other firewall on its own — another big plus.

We have been using the appliance for about a year now and there have been no real issues. On a day-to-day basis, we rely on the pro-active monitoring by Network Box staff to let us know if there is a problem with our system, and they are then very good at sorting out the problem. They also provide regular reports from Network Box to track activity.

Overall, the Network Box appliance has comfortably met our needs for internet security reliably and cost-effectively, and the fact that it is remotely managed by the vendor has saved me from having to find someone to handle our security management. The appliance provides a number of useful features for companies of our size, and the support from the Network Box people has been really good.

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