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Brian Wharton
Manager – Information Technology Group



INDUSTRY Transport Logistics

BACKGROUND With its head office located in Mt Gambier, the K&S Group has been providing transport, warehousing and logistics support to Australian for more than 55 years.

K & S is recognised as a pre-eminent supplier of supply chain solutions in Australia. Recognised as a true multi-modal provider and maintaining an outstanding facility and resource base, K&S controls one of the largest company owned fleets in Australia, over 160,000 sq. m of warehousing and a large range of rail and sea containers. K & S Group has 17 sites, connected by a private data & voice network.

Brian Wharton manages K & S's IT Group, with 15 dedicated staff looking after almost 1000 staff around Australia and New Zealand.

Wharton had long understood the need for good IT security, and had found that the previously installed network security, a Netscreen, was simply not adequate for today's demands in terms of

security performance and management service.

REQUIREMENT What Wharton required was not unreasonable: knowledge, service, and good value for money. "The Transport Logistics industry is not a high margin industry", he explained, "and we need to spend our IT budget wisely. But at the same time, getting security right is critical".

Wharton understood the benefits to K & S from a relationship with a competent managed security provider. "It makes no sense to have my staff trying to deal with issues that need 24 x 7 attention and specialist knowledge," he explains, "Outsourcing these time-critical functions is the only way to address that."

In terms of functionality, K & S was also keen on the Network Box's comprehensive capabilities, including SPAM filtering, Intrusion Detection, and Anti-Virus, and they particularly wanted to make use of the Network Box's ability to enforce company policy in areas that hit the bottom line: web content filtering especially.

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SOLUTION K & S Group selected a Network Box Rack Mount system to run at its main gateway, filtering all traffic going into and out of its network.

“Given the trouble we had previously with trying to identify and manage external incursion issues, I was a little worried”, Wharton confessed.

“It turned out that I had no reason to be concerned. The Network Box was deployed on a Friday night, and a couple of hours later we were on the air with a system that does everything we want. It even handles the security issues with our recently introduced VPN circuits”, he said.

SPAM filtering has lived up to expectations, as has the IDP system, but Wharton remains understandably frustrated that ISPs take so little responsibility for dealing with these issues. “ISPs should be doing their utmost as a service provider to stop SPAM at its source rather

than simply pass it on down the line to us” he says.

“Using a device like the Network Box at the ISP, to screen this type of traffic out,” he says, “so that customers can use their own Network Boxes to deal with their company policy enforcement, would make life a lot simpler, and cheaper!”

COMPETITION K & S Group became a Network Box customer in somewhat unusual circumstances. Few customers of other managed security providers look outside their existing choice, regardless of how unhappy they may be.

Wharton’s decision to do so was a good one, and has paid off for K & S.

“Deciding to switch MSPs is at the heart of my security and it wasn’t easy at the time, but we’re very happy we did”, he says. “Service has been outstanding; the system itself seems bullet-proof – all in all, it’s a great result”



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