Imperial College Gives Malware a Failing Grade

With Malwarebytes Anti-Malware for Business, the university proactively protects valuable intellectual property on thousands of PCs.

INDUSTRY
Education

BUSINESS CHALLENGE
Defeat a virulent zero-day malware attack

IT ENVIRONMENT
A 214-strong ICT team supports everything from printers and laptops to an enterprise-grade infrastructure that supports 17,000 students, faculty, and management staff. Computers had anti-virus protection installed.

SOLUTION
Malwarebytes Anti-Malware for Business, which includes the Management Console

RESULTS
– Remediated a virulent malware outbreak

– Protected valuable intellectual property residing on university endpoints

– Simplified management

– Eliminated the need to replace damaged machines

BUSINESS PROFILE

Imperial College was founded in 1907 and is consistently ranked as one of the world's leading universities. Located in Central London, the university specializes in science, technology, medicine, and business teaching and research. Imperial College enrolls nearly 14,000 students from 126 countries, employs more than 3,300 academic staff, and has 14 Nobel Prize-winning alumni. It also has a large installed base of computers and other endpoints that require protection.

Malwarebytes ANTI-MALWARE FOR BUSINESS

> "
> *The fact that Malwarebytes detects the latest malicious threats, while still working alongside other AV software, means that all our users now have the best possible protection available."*
> — Richard Whittaker, Head of Desktop Support Team at Imperial College

BUSINESS CHALLENGE
CONTAIN AN OUTBREAK

The 53-person-strong desktop support team provides front-line technical support to six separate campuses for faculty, research, library, management teams and other staff. For them, technical solutions need to be effective, quick, and easy to implement. The desktop support team also rolls out around 1500 new PCs every year, managing more than 12,000 machines at any one time.

Protecting against and remediating malware infections is crucial. The university's fleet of PCs contains a substantial amount of important information—from results of year-long theses and management projects to ground-breaking and proprietary research. A particularly hard-to-remove Trojan could delete years of work, not to mention the ever-present threat to personal and university data from information-stealing malware. Imperial College also had a baseline antivirus solution, and any new anti-malware product had to work with it.

The tipping point for the university was a particularly virulent zero-day malware outbreak. A fake AV program, which was being hosted on some well-known sites, had infected a large number of Imperial College computers. This piece of malicious software was morphing quickly, infecting approximately 90 computers every day and proving difficult to detect and remove.

Malwarebytes
ANTI-MALWARE
FOR BUSINESS

THE SOLUTION
MALWAREBYTES ANTI-MALWARE FOR BUSINESS

The desktop support team tried a variety of mainstream products without success. Many of the solutions wouldn't even install. Then the desktop support team tried Malwarebytes Anti-Malware for Business. Malwarebytes Anti-Malware for Business protects against zero-hour malware that most other solutions miss. It detects malware on demand when a scan is activated and provides advanced malware removal.

FAST REMEDIATION

"Malwarebytes installed the first time and even more importantly, it cleared the malware at the first attempt, on every infected computer," said Richard Whittaker, Head of the Desktop Support Team at Imperial College. "This was a major outbreak and all of our existing antivirus tools weren't even touching it. Without Malwarebytes, we would have had to reformat every machine. Not only would a countless amount of academic work have been lost, but it would have been a significant undertaking for the tech team."

IMPLEMENTATION AND MANAGEMENT SIMPLICITY

"The team was impressed to say the least," said Whittaker. "We immediately pushed to have Malwarebytes installed as standard on every laptop and desktop at Imperial. The fact that it detects the latest malicious threats, while still working alongside other AV software, means that all our users now have the best possible protection available."

Malwarebytes is also easy to manage. Software updates can be pushed to all systems at once. Scans can be performed automatically. And once installed, Malwarebytes can be almost completely hands-free.

"It just does the job with no fuss," said Whittaker. "More importantly, I'm no longer inundated with infected computers."

A COST-EFFECTIVE SOLUTION

Malwarebytes Anti-Malware for Business works alongside existing antivirus solutions, so the Imperial College team could be assured that whatever the antivirus solution could not handle, Malwarebytes could. Now, instead of having to replace irreparably damaged machines, the university could clean and remediate them for a significant cost savings.

About Malwarebytes

Malwarebytes provides anti-malware and anti-exploit software designed to protect businesses and consumers against zero-day threats that consistently escape detection by traditional antivirus solutions. Malwarebytes Anti-Malware earned an "Outstanding" rating by CNET editors, is a PCMag.com Editor's Choice, and was the only security software to earn a perfect malware remediation score from AV-TEST.org. That's why more than 38,000 SMBs and Enterprise businesses worldwide trust Malwarebytes to protect their data. Founded in 2008, Malwarebytes is headquartered in California, operates offices in Europe, and employs a global team of researchers and experts.

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