

Freeing Up Bandwidth

Filtering out spam gives Mahanagar Gas an RoI of about Rs 2 lakh per annum in bandwidth savings

Mahanagar Gas Limited (MGL) is a gas distribution company that supplies PNG (piped natural gas) to domestic, commercial, and small industrial establishments in Mumbai and its suburbs. It also supplies CNG (compressed natural gas) for vehicles in and around Mumbai through its network of 120 gas stations.

Spam-Choked Bandwidth

About two-and-a-half years ago, MGL's network was in a bad shape, as the available bandwidth was choked due to spam. So clogged was the bandwidth that sometimes, mail couldn't be downloaded for days. Though content filtering was put in place, it was not very effective, and the network was also vulnerable to virus attacks through email.

"We needed a good antivirus and anti-spam solution that would be cost-effective," says Prosenjit Purkayastha, vice president, Finance.

Good, Cost-Effective Solution

MGL spoke to various vendors and looked at other applications. In the end, they found that Logix Secure Relay (LSR) suited their requirements. "We chose Logix as they had provided us services earlier and they knew our businesses," says Purkayastha. "From the technology and cost aspects too, their solution was suitable," he adds.

LSR was implemented in the organization for a 15-day trial period, and in June 2004, it was deployed in the entire organization. Now, about 250 to 280 users in various locations get their email through LSR.

"Spam is now successfully blocked and we are regularly receiving email. This has allowed us to use bandwidth optimally," says R Harikrishna, deputy general manager, IT.

Fast Implementation

Deployment was smooth and involved no downtime. "Implementation was fast and required no change in our IT setup," says Harikrishna. The day after the deployment, users were surprised to see that they had begun receiving mail, which couldn't be downloaded earlier due to the sheer volume of spam choking the network.

Under this system, MGL's mail server at an IDC sends all mail to the LSR mail



server at another IDC. LSR deploys multiple antivirus and content filtering solutions to scan this mail for viruses, spam, and other intrusion threats. The "clean" mail is then sent to MGL's mailboxes across locations. If any spam does make its way into the system, the IT department informs Logix of the same, and policies are reconfigured to block mail from that source.

The IT department at MGL has a discussion every six months with Logix for any changes required in the policies or filters used for email. "However, the system is stable now and we receive no spam," says Purkayastha.

MGL has now negotiated with Logix for management of its proxy server, which runs on Linux. For the past six months, Logix has been managing mail and proxy services for MGL. □



Prosenjit Purkayastha, vice president, Finance, Mahanagar Gas

We are happy customers as all our mail-related problems have been solved

Highlights

Mahanagar Gas deploys Logix Secure Relay to filter out spam, viruses, and other intrusion threats that come through email.

Benefits

- RoI of about Rs 2 lakh per annum in bandwidth saving
- Spam reduced from 40% of total mail to zero
- Optimal usage of bandwidth
- Time saving
- Users are satisfied as they receive clean, spam-free mail