

Sony Life Insurance

McAfee, Active VirusScan Suite

The Company

Founded in 1979 as a joint venture of Sony Corp. and the Prudential Insurance Company of America, Sony Life Insurance became a wholly-owned subsidiary of Sony in 1996. With more than 20 trillion yen in current policies, the company has been the fastest growing company in the industry for four years running.

The Environment

The Sony Life Insurance IT team is faced with the daunting task of protecting more than 5,000 mostly mobile desktops. A McAfee WebShield appliance stands guard at the company's Internet gateway. Until recently, the company used anti-virus protection from another large vendor for desktop and server protection.

The Business Problem

That other anti-virus solution proved to be too expensive to manage, according to Mr. Ando, a member of the IT team. Updates were not automated, but rather were performed by end users. The IT team sent weekly e-mail messages to the end users reminding them to update their anti-virus definition files. "Having each individual update their own virus definition files, however, is an unexpectedly troublesome task and it is not necessarily always done. Though some delay in updating could probably have been tolerated when the software was first installed since viruses were not such a great problem then as they are now, any delays now are totally out of the question. It was especially problematic that there was no method in place that would enable managers to reliably comprehend whether or not the virus definition files had actually been updated."

Additionally, some of the older computers on the network were too slow to run the real-time scanning component of the anti-virus software.

When it came time to renew their contract with the vendor, the Sony Life Insurance IT team decided to re-evaluate their anti-virus defense strategy.

Key Features:

The IT team at Sony Life Insurance chose Active VirusScan Suite to take advantage of these features:

- Industry-leading detection and cleaning capabilities. Knowing that the McAfee anti-virus scanning engine would be keeping their systems safe let the Sony Life team rest easy.
- VirusScan Thin Client. With many legacy PCs scattered throughout the Sony Life network, anti-virus protection with a small footprint and minimal need for resources was critical. VirusScan TC was the perfect solution.
- Centralized policy management. ePolicy Orchestrator, the cornerstone of Active Virus Defense, allows the Sony Life administrators to keep all 5,000 PCs on the network compliant with their anti-virus policies, saving them money by preventing virus outbreaks.
- Centralized anti-virus visibility. ePolicy Orchestrator's reporting capability gives the IT team at Sony Life the information they need to know whether updates to the anti-virus protection on PCs have been applied on schedule, and helps them pinpoint areas of failure before they become a liability.

CASE STUDY



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The Solution

Sony Life undertook an exhaustive comparison of three products, including the McAfee Active VirusScan Suite. The company gave special consideration to the the virus definition file updating capabilities of each product. It was also looking for a product that would allow the IT team to effectively discover the status of each of the 5,000 clients on the network and centrally manage updating functions.

The company found the McAfee Active VirusScan Suite was the only anti-virus software package capable of satisfying these requirements.

Ando said, "In order to effectively protect the company's valuable data resources, it is necessary to update the virus definition files even on a daily basis and always maintain them in the most up-to-date condition. This is meaningless, though, if this task of updating becomes excessively burdensome and therefore automatic updating without dependence on any manual operations is essential.

There was thus a need for the virus definition files to undergo forced updating each time a client connected to the network. The product that made all of this possible was the Active VirusScan Suite."

Active VirusScan Suite

The Active VirusScan Suite is comprised of VirusScan, NetShield, and ePolicy Orchestrator. VirusScan and NetShield offer comprehensive anti-virus protection for a company's desktops and servers.

ePolicy Orchestrator gives administrators the management tools necessary to effectively manage anti-virus software on thousands of PCs from one central server.

The Active VirusScan Suite also includes VirusScan TC, desktop protection specifically designed for the needs of a mobile workforce. With complete administrative lockdown capabilities and incremental updating facilities, VirusScan TC addresses the needs of the mobile user like no other product can.

Ando has especially strong words of praise for the powerful management capabilities of ePolicy Orchestrator and VirusScan TC.

"Realizing management through one server contributes to an alleviation of the workload in terms of management since transfers do not occur even when a client is added. In addition, VirusScan TC also makes it possible to get by with minimum resources and, under current standards,

even older model PCs can execute anti-virus countermeasures in real time and we therefore do not experience any of the wasteful use of resources that we had in the past."

Sony Life Insurance now places trust in McAfee to completely protect its network. The components of the Active VirusScan Suite, together with a WebShield anti-virus appliance at the Internet gateway, ensure that Sony Life's valuable resources and data assets are not lost to virus outbreaks.

For more information on products, worldwide services, and support, contact your authorized McAfee sales representative.

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