

RESEARCH LABS COLLABORATE SECURELY IN A COMPLEX ENVIRONMENT



LEADING EDGE TECHNOLOGY IS REQUIRED FOR LEADING EDGE RESEARCH

The University of Cambridge is one of the oldest universities in the world and one of the largest in the United Kingdom. Its reputation for outstanding academic achievement is known world-wide and reflects the intellectual achievement of its students, as well as the world class original research carried out by the staff of the University and the Colleges.

The Department of Physics at the University of Cambridge is made up of 15 research groups with a staff of 650. 2600 IP resources are connected to the network. Balancing the need for security and the desire to collaborate had become a costly endeavour for Cavendish Laboratory IT.



Interview with Ian Mackey

*IT Manager,
member of computing
committee and network
project group*

THE CAVENDISH LABORATORY

IT Infrastructure

- 56 Network switches
- >2600 IP Addresses (18 subnets)
- 4 high performance computer clusters
- Average 600Gb through the core
- Multiple operating systems
- Multiple protocols
- 32 servers (26 central)

Configuration

- NETASQ F2000

THE GOAL WAS TO ENABLE THE UNIVERSITY'S RESEARCH COMMUNITIES TO SHARE THEIR WORK IN A SECURE ENVIRONMENT

The research that takes place at The Cavendish Laboratory requires collaboration with other research communities. Our scientists are proud of their work and naturally they want to share it. However, such collaboration implies vulnerability in terms of security.

Often, co-research between laboratories is funded. However, there is a tenuous balance between *sharing* and security and between *usability* and security – the more security you put into a system, the more system performance tends to decrease.

These issues have been fully resolved with NETASQ's solution. Incidents have been reduced dramatically and intrusions have been eliminated with no noticeable degradation on the network.

THE RESULT IS A GREAT REDUCTION IN THE COST OF KEEPING THE NETWORK SECURE

Keeping the network secure became too time-consuming for the team. "We were policing more than developing", said Mackey.

He went on to say that "One intrusion would cost £6K just to investigate; that is, to understand where it went and what it did. NETASQ's system has been in place since January 2006 and we have had ZERO intrusions."

Our Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) was pushed to its limits with the technologies that were in place. "At 76.45 Euros per hour, the cumulative cost of incident prevention and response was mounting," according to Mackey.

With NETASQ's solution, incidents have simply been cut to 10% of what they were previously. We have gone from over 60 incidents per day to five six. One and ½ hours per day was

"For less than the cost of a member of staff, we have a dedicated security expert...the NETASQ F2000"
Ian Mackey, IT Manager

spent monitoring incidents. Now monitoring has been cut down to 2-3 times per week.

"We previously had a packet logic box which we have been able to phase out with a smaller model simply because NETASQ did all the monitoring," said Ian Mackey. "We have another vendor's system to protect the servers," he added, "but trouble isn't even getting to these servers now because NETASQ stops the intrusions before they get to that layer." These costly appliances have become practically obsolete thanks to NETASQ.

EFFICIENT AFTER SALES SERVICE AND INTUITIVE ADMINISTRATION TOOLS

"I found NETASQ personnel to be enthusiastic about helping. The tech support is solid and able to assist us within a complex multiprocessor environment," Mackey said. He added, "The knowledge and forethought NETASQ brought was based on my network and requirements –they heard what I was saying."

It is noted that NETASQ provides comprehensive and very readable documentation. NETASQ also offers training courses and they keep their partners knowledgeable.

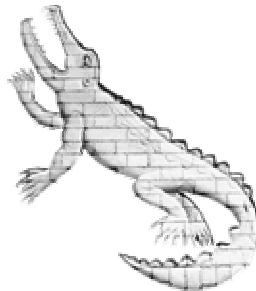
Mackey went on to say, "We tried many of NETASQ's competitor's systems and found that their technologies were just too tedious to maintain. Simply looking at the logs required a high level of technical skill. The simplicity of NETASQ's Administration Software Suite provides advanced reporting and monitoring features which enable us to deal with exceptions proactively."

CLIENT BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- Immediate Return on Investment.
- Extremely effective technology – Zero intrusions since January 2006.
- Fast, knowledgeable and accurate support.
- Complete, accessible and intuitive administration tools.

"One major difference I found when comparing NETASQ to other vendors is that they are Solution Providers, not box-sellers."

Ian Mackey, IT Manager



From the outer wall of the old Cavendish Site



ABOUT NETASQ

NETASQ was established in 1998 and is the leading European vendor of unified security solutions for businesses of all sizes: SMEs-SMIs, large enterprises and government bodies. The company designs and markets Unified Threat Management (UTM) appliances based on its own ASQ (Active Security Qualification), a unique real-time intrusion prevention technology, with network and application firewall features, IPSec and SSL VPN, content filtering, anti-virus, anti-spam, anti-spyware, and secure VoIP. Living up to its reputation as a technological innovator, NETASQ thus provides all the essential security functions, built into a single appliance. Its ASQ technology is embedded by default in all products, guaranteeing clients optimum protection through the combination of several innovative analyses. ASQ tangibly delivers on the promise of zero-day protection security.

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