McAfee™
Together is power.

State Government Places its Trust in McAfee for IT Consolidation

Comprehensive Security for 35,000 endpoints

Major US State Government

Customer Profile
400 state agencies serving 4.4 million citizens

Industry
State government

IT Environment
Network serving 35,000 users across 1,500 locations statewide

Within this US state government, the Office of Technology is the central IT organization, serving almost 400 executive, judicial, and legislative agencies, which, in turn, administer programs for 4.4 million citizens. The Office of Technology oversees a network linking 1,500 locations and 35,000 users across the state.

An Evolving Security Landscape

The state relied on McAfee solutions for almost a decade. "As our requirements have evolved, the McAfee solution set has evolved right along with us," noted a system software branch manager for infrastructure services within the Office of Technology. "We began with endpoint, web, and email security solutions. Then, as Internet threats grew and our environment became more virtualized and our workforce more mobile, McAfee was right there with the solutions we needed."

In response to an executive order from the state's governor, the Office of Technology was in the midst of a large-scale project to consolidate IT resources throughout the state. The manager explained that many of the executive cabinet offices had their own IT staffs and infrastructure, and there was much duplication of effort. "McAfee solutions, and especially McAfee ePO, are playing a huge role in the consolidation effort," he says.

An Ever-Expanding McAfee Connected Environment

Today, McAfee solutions provide comprehensive protection for virtually every corner of the state's IT infrastructure. For security at 35,000 endpoints, the state has adopted the McAfee Complete Endpoint Protection—Enterprise suite, including McAfee VirusScan® Enterprise, McAfee Application Control, McAfee Host Intrusion Prevention for Desktop, and McAfee Global Threat Intelligence. McAfee Web Protection guard against email and web threats, and

McAfee MOVE AntiVirus extends advanced protection to the state's virtualized infrastructure.

Most recently, the state added McAfee Advanced Threat Defense and chose to complement the deployment of its 34,000-seat license of McAfee Drive Encryption rather than adopt Microsoft BitLocker.

"McAfee has always provided the comprehensive and reliable security we've needed, along with world-class support," the manager said. "For this latest purchase, we were already sold on the ease of use and time/cost savings of McAfee ePO and knew that any new McAfee solutions would be completely integrated with our existing environment. Plus, McAfee's continued ranking at the top of the Gartner Magic Quadrant only reinforced our choice."

Comprehensive Control Over a Complex Environment

From the beginning of the state's McAfee partnership, McAfee ePO software was been the cornerstone of the state's security strategy. With its centralized management console and full visibility into the complete McAfee ecosystem of solutions, McAfee ePO software has always been a powerful productivity tool.

"Because our IT organization is so departmentalized, McAfee ePO plays a critical role. We're able to grant access to other support areas, such as the server and desktop groups, while still maintaining a central management point," the manager explained. "It's a one-stop shop for managing our security infrastructure."

Challenges
- Consolidate IT silos under a single, centralized security management solution

McAfee Solution
- McAfee Advanced Threat Defense
- McAfee Application Control
- McAfee Complete Data Protection—Advanced
- McAfee Complete Endpoint Protection—Enterprise
- McAfee® ePolicy Orchestrator® Software (McAfee ePO™)
- McAfee Host Intrusion Prevention for Desktop
- McAfee Management for Optimized Virtual Environments AntiVirus (McAfee MOVE AntiVirus)
- McAfee Quarantine Manager
- McAfee VirusScan Enterprise
- McAfee Web Protection

McAfee Professional Services
- McAfee Deployment Services

In addition, McAfee ePO software streamlines the state's compliance with both internal policies and external regulations. For audits, the IT team is able to run reports for the Security Division that show which endpoints are up to date on their antivirus software and definitions, which machines are overdue to check in for a scan, and whether an unauthorized machine has connected to the network without any protection installed. With a few mouse clicks, the team can pull statistics on malware interceptions throughout the state; in Q3 and Q4 2014, for instance, a McAfee ePO software report showed that close to 120,000 threats of all types had been blocked by McAfee systems.

Protecting a Highly Virtualized Environment

IT virtualization under VMware vSphere is a major priority for the state, with more than 4,000 virtual machines (VMs) deployed between two data centers. For virtualization-centric malware protection, the IT team has installed McAfee MOVE AntiVirus in agentless mode. By accessing McAfee ePO software, the server IT team is able to manage and control McAfee MOVE AntiVirus protection for groups of VMs. "McAfee MOVE AntiVirus offered superior price/ performance, and our server team needed a solution that would not tie up resources on the servers," the manager said. "Not only does the McAfee MOVE AntiVirus agentless deployment meet that requirement, it also stops malware with just one shared scan engine on the host."

Comprehensive and Compliant Endpoint Protection

With McAfee VirusScan Enterprise installed on every desktop, laptop, and mobile device, the state has complete real-time protection from malware intrusions that could place the network at risk and compromise critical data. In addition, the state has installed McAfee File & Removable Media Protection to protect data stored on laptops and other mobile devices.

"As our mobile workforce continues to grow, McAfee's encryption solutions give us the assurance that critical and often confidential data will be protected when tablets and laptops leave the office," the manager noted. "Employees in the field, like building inspectors, are able to leverage technology to do their jobs without placing sensitive data at risk."

Locking Out Internet and Web Threats

McAfee Web Protection offers critical protection from malware resulting from employees' Internet usage. When the latest McAfee Web Protection upgrade is complete, the new transparent user authentication features will allow individual state agencies to pull reports of users' Internet activity to support compliance audits, and web filtering automatically analyzes requested websites for potential threats.

"We do have the ability to blacklist and whitelist websites, but with McAfee Web Protection, we're able to group users and agencies based on their levels of web access. It's a much more efficient approach to web protection, and users have automatic access to the sites they need to use for their jobs," the manager says.

Results

- Consolidated security monitoring and management for statewide IT network
- Enhanced compliance through reporting and audit support
- Comprehensive protection for endpoints and email/web users

Professional Services Paves the Way to IT Consolidation

As the state's IT consolidation proceeds, the Office of Technology has invested in McAfee Platinum Support and is relying on McAfee Professional Services to help manage the security aspects of the project. One key element is a large-scale upgrade of McAfee ePO software that migrated multiple McAfee ePO software instances throughout the state into one centralized system.

"Previously, we worked with a McAfee Professional Services rep that had incredible expertise in McAfee Web Protection, and we're still benefiting from that knowledge," the manager remarks. "Already, our current rep is a key member of the team as we upgrade McAfee ePO and begin installing McAfee Advanced Threat Defense and McAfee Data Loss Prevention."

A Long-Term Partnership

With its McAfee Connected environment, the state has built an enterprise security environment in which malware intrusions are at a minimum, but centralized monitoring and management through McAfee ePO software ensures maximum productivity and lower operational costs. "With McAfee as our security partner, we can rest assured that we've done our due diligence to afford maximum protection to the entire state environment, with solutions from one of the most reputable companies in the industry," the manager said. "From our employees' perspective, they know they can log into their workstations every day and be protected, and we're able to say to our citizens that their sensitive data is safe with us."

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—System Software Branch Manager