CASE STUDY:
Saint Mary's University of Minnesota Closes Email Security Gap with Cost-Effective VIPRE ATP

VIPRE®

Saint Mary's University OF MINNESOTA

Industry
Education

Company Type
Private, nonprofit university

Solution
Advanced Threat Protection (ATP)

Summary
Private Minnesota-based university seeks to eliminate gaps in its security plan by using VIPRE Advanced Threat Protection (ATP) to combat spam, spoofing and security breaches involving credit card and Social Security numbers.

Number of Users
5,548 total students

Challenge
Saint Mary's uses Google G Suite for Education, but the school's testing showed the educational suite's email security tools did not meet Saint Mary's standards.

Website
https://www.smumn.edu/

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Saint Mary's University of Minnesota is a private, nonprofit university that is mission-driven to abandon elitism, embrace respect and be dedicated to every person. Its undergraduate, residential, liberal arts college offers 59 majors at its 450-acre Winona Campus. Convenient graduate, bachelor's completion and certificate programmes are offered at its Twin Cities and Winona campuses, Rochester or other regional locations, and online.

To serve its extensive range of students, faculty and administrators, Saint Mary's has relied on the popular Google G Suite for Education group of communication and collaboration tools, which includes email security and anti-spam features. Unfortunately, despite these features Saint Mary's was still plagued by problems with spam, spoofing and security breaches involving both credit card and Social Security numbers. End users were getting spam mail on a daily basis, and faculty received spoofed emails that seemed to be from the school president's account.

Saint Mary's conducted tests on the email security tools in Google G Suite for Education, and they failed to meet the school's standards. Getting the premium tools needed to satisfy those standards would mean upgrading to Google's costly G Suite Enterprise for Education. At that point the school's IT team researched security solutions (on-site and cloud-based) from a half-dozen leading vendors, and concluded VIPRE Advanced Threat Protection (ATP) was the best choice.

Leveraging the latest machine learning technology running in secure cloud sandboxes, VIPRE ATP gives Saint Mary's intelligent real-time layered protection for email, blocking discovered threats before end users can accidentally click on them. VIPRE ATP also delivers exceptional affordability, and a broad range of configuration options to maximise protection for specific IT environments.

As Mike Ziegler, Network Operations Manager at Saint Mary's, puts it, "We chose VIPRE because of the value we saw in the product. We needed something that would fill our security gap but not break our budget. We also liked the admin tool features that give us more flexibility to see reporting, we never had that before. Now we can create customised rules that are tailored to our end users, rather than having to pick from default general rules that don't apply to Saint Mary's."

At the core of VIPRE ATP is VIPRE Email Security Cloud, the platform that provides a solid foundation for email reception, handling, and bulk protection. The base platform gives Saint Mary's key anti-spam, anti-malware, and anti-phishing technology,

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Saint Mary's University of Minnesota, Network Operations Manager, Mike Ziegler

continuity protection against email server downtime, and highly customisable filtering and routing rules.

VIPRE ATP includes another layer of protection with Attachment Sandboxing, which goes a step further than traditional anti-malware by executing extracted attachments in a protected cloud sandbox environment. The behaviour of the executed content is observed and compared to past known malware strains using sophisticated machine learning to determine if the content could be malicious. This gives Saint Mary's comprehensive protection against spam emails that target its users with seemingly-innocent attachments.

Every organisation knows that the legal and financial penalties for inadvertently exposing personal information such as Social Security numbers and credit card account numbers can be severe, and Saint Mary's is particularly pleased with VIPRE's flexible configuration tools that make it simple for administrators to prohibit users from transmitting admin-specified types of content in emails.

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Phishing Protection is an additional layer of defence in VIPRE ATP, enabling Saint Mary's to combat phishing emails that contain embedded malicious URLs by closing the time gap between receipt-time scanning and the user clicking on the URL. If an attacker delays setting up a malicious domain until after an email is sent, users can be fooled into visiting a phishing site. VIPRE ATP eliminates that gap by rewriting the URLs embedded in emails and re-scanning them at click-time, ensuring that Saint Mary's users stay protected.

Ziegler summarises: "Saint Mary's now has visibility into our email and what is being sent. Our IT department has the ability to now EASILY check the logs and see information that we did not have access to before. VIPRE has also cut down on our spam, as well as phishing emails to and from our president."

About VIPRE

VIPRE is a leading provider of internet security solutions purpose-built to protect businesses, solution providers, and home users from costly and malicious cyber threats. Our award-winning software portfolio includes comprehensive endpoint and email security, plus threat intelligence for real-time malware analysis, delivering unmatched protection against today's most aggressive online threats. VIPRE® is a subsidiary of J2 Global, Inc. global.VIPRE.com

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