40 SITES ADMINISTERED
WITH F-SECURE CONSOLES

Credit : Nanterre municipal authority

Company: Nanterre municipal authority

Industry: Public sector

Country: France

Solutions from F-Secure: Business Suite, Protection Service for Business

MAIRIE DE NANTERRE

Located in the Hauts-de-Seine department, the town of Nanterre has 92,000 inhabitants. The municipal authority is made up of forty or so sites (some of which are managed by national delegations) with various issues related to availability and applications. Protection of computer workstations and servers involves the central municipal authority and its six branches, as well as leisure centres and municipal schools. The Infrastructure Team is made up of five people, the Workstation Division is managed by Sylvie Muller, and the Director of the Information Systems and Telecommunications Department is Jean-Pierre Vignier.

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APPEARANCE OF A NEW NEED
FOR CENTRALISATION

The relationship between F-Secure and the Nanterre municipal authority is not new: the first installation dates back to 2000.. The relationship reached a new level of cooperation in 2014, when a new need for centralisation arose with the development and complexification of the IT system. Frédéric Pralong, Manager of the Infrastructure Services Division, therefore sought a centralised console solution to deploy antivirus protection and manage security. He performed a search via SIPPEREC, an organisation that provides a catalogue of services and solutions for local authorities in Paris and the surrounding region.

"With forty or so sites, mainly interconnected via optical fibre, we needed an effective solution that enabled centralised management," says Frédéric Pralong. "The IT system includes 1000 workstations for schools and leisure centres and 1500 workstations for municipal authority sites. There are also smartphones assigned to elected representatives and members of the municipal council, which are few in number but highly sensitive."

RECOMMENDATIONS BASED ON
KNOWLEDGE OF THE IT SYSTEM

Having tested the competition by performing POCs on various solutions, the F-Secure proposal proved to be the most conclusive.

"As F-Secure had 15 years of experience with the Nanterre municipal authority, we naturally followed their recommendations."

Because the architecture included a number of remote sites and a major central site, the proposed technical solution is based on SaaS administration for remote sites and an administration console installed on the central site.

The console manages both infrastructure security (servers and applications) and workstations:

⊘ Currently, the Business Suite solution, along with the Policy Manager console, protects the 500 virtualized servers operating with Windows and Linux.

⊘ The PSB solution in SaaS mode manages workstations (Mac and Windows 7 and 10) on both remote sites (schools, holiday centres, media libraries, etc.) and the central site.

⊘ During the initial project phase, Policy Manager managed the municipal authority's workstations and servers, and the PSB solution managed remote sites. However, in order to provide administrative flexibility, all workstations are now managed by PSB.

- For sites with a LAN (holiday and leisure centres), deployment was performed from the end of 2014 to mid-2015, taking approximately six months.

- For all workstations vulnerable to the unreliability of ADSL (as the network is not fully covered by fibre optic), deployment began in spring 2016 and has gradually progressed since.

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"Deployment underway requires organisation, in particular concerning protection of school workstations," points out Frédéric Pralong. "Updates must be performed during school holidays for reasons of availability, but also for reasons of heightened security as part of the Vigipirate plan. F-Secure has proved to be very responsive and provides good solutions for deployment of the PSB solution."

MORE THAN A TECHNICAL SERVICE PROVIDER: A CONSULTANT AND PARTNER

For Frédéric Pralong, the partnership with F-Secure brings added value through the advice provided and the availability of its personnel, including direct calls, emails and regular meetings to provide information about current attacks and updates to be performed:

"What makes the difference for us is the human relationship we have established over many years with F-Secure. Our contact person doesn't hesitate to go beyond the deployment of F-Secure solutions and advises us on overall security. We are a small team, with a dozen members, and we do not have an ISSM. The advice provided by our contact person is, therefore, invaluable."

RECOGNISED BENEFITS

- ⊘ Advice provided during deployment and more globally regarding security issues;

- ⊘ Good value for money in an environment of budget cutbacks (-10% operating costs) and the ability to source via SIPPEREC;

- ⊘ Ease-of-use of Policy Manager and PSB;

- ⊘ A solution that meets the main needs of the municipal authority (performance, functionality and administration).

"The tools we seek must be easy to use and provide a rapid overview of what is and isn't working. Policy Manager fully meets this need. For PSB, we still need to familiarise ourselves with the new interface, but the solution provides the expected functions. The overall assessment is already very positive: a meeting to assess overall progress will be held upon completion of deployment, scheduled for June 2017 (migration of school workstations from Policy Manager to PSB), but we are already convinced by F-Secure's responsiveness and its advisory role in a complex deployment environment. Whenever we have a question, there is always someone ready to provide an answer."

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