Mizuno hits malware protection out of the park in the U.S. market

Effortless, strong protection for remote users with Malwarebytes

INDUSTRY
Sports goods—apparel and footwear

BUSINESS CHALLENGE
Deliver better protection against malware while simplifying management

IT ENVIRONMENT
Antivirus, firewalls, data center security measures
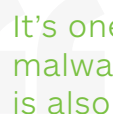
SOLUTION
Malwarebytes Endpoint Security

RESULTS
- Reduced infections from multiple machines per week to almost zero
- Achieved high protection with minimal management needed
- Saved time and increased the ability to push policy easily to remote users
- Protected against data exfiltration by blocking malicious sites

Business profile

Mizuno USA is a premium performance sports brand, delivering outstanding products and services. Its mission is to ignite athletes' quest for better performance through premium sports equipment. When it came to malware, Mizuno was striking out. Malware began to affect field sales team members' productivity and increase risk to the company. Mizuno took action and deployed Malwarebytes to keep malware from striking the business out.

> It's one thing for a machine to be destroyed by malware, but when you see that Malwarebytes is also helping stop data from being exfiltrated to bad sites, that's huge. I feel good knowing that those sites are being blocked.
>
> —Chris D'Angelo, Network Administrator, Mizuno USA

Business challenge
Deliver better protection against malware while simplifying management

In the U.S., Mizuno works to provide customers with premium-performance equipment, footwear, and apparel for running, baseball, softball, volleyball, golf, and other sports. With its field reps constantly on the road, laptops were being relentlessly attacked by malware. The antivirus wasn't catching malware, so machines frequently got infected. Often the user didn't realize that it was infected or just kept working until the machine stopped functioning. At that point, the headquarters staff would try to clean the machine remotely, but more often, it had to come back to the office for cleanup.

"Typically we'd have to re-image the machine," said Chris D'Angelo, Network Administrator for Mizuno USA. "There is a small team managing all of the PCs, in addition to servers and network systems. We would see up to four machines a week come back to be restored, which took us away from other projects and really inconvenienced the sales reps whose machines were infected."

The solution

Malwarebytes Endpoint Security

D'Angelo started looking for a better solution to protect the remote users' machines and to simplify management for all employees. When he looked into Malwarebytes Endpoint Security with the Malwarebytes Management Console, he realized that he could do both things at the same time.

"I knew Malwarebytes worked, and I realized that we could push software and policies to our remote users with central management," said D'Angelo. "We field-tested it, and it was the right solution."

Protection on cruise control

Infections quickly dropped to almost zero, saving time for the team and eliminating downtime for users. Malwarebytes is now a standard part of every PC configuration. For D'Angelo, the biggest benefit of Malwarebytes has been the ability to put malware protection on cruise control. Having three automatic quick scans per day makes it simple.

"Three scans do a thorough scan of the entire computer without disturbing our teammates' workflow or even realizing it," he said. "Scan memory object, scan startup object, scan registry, scan file system, scan additional, and enable scanning. Everything gets checked."

Infected machine emergencies are virtually gone, and now D'Angelo rarely has to look at the Management Console, because Malwarebytes just works. With a small team responsible for all security, he says that it's nice to have an added layer of protection that they don't have to manage proactively.

Pushing policy seamlessly

With the Management Console's central management capabilities, D'Angelo can manage policy, get visibility into users' machines if necessary, clean a machine remotely, and do it all from one place. He has created one policy for headquarters machines and a second policy specifically for remote users' machines.

"We really like the ability to push the client to remote users," he said. "We can update policies for them and know that the clients are updated the next time they connect to the network. I like knowing that we have policies out there protecting us."

Protected coming in and going out

Users' PCs are scanned three times a day to stay on top of potential threats. D'Angelo said that Malwarebytes is continuously cleaning up machines running Google Chrome and Chrome plug-ins. Besides protecting against incoming threats, D'Angelo said that an unexpected bonus is the way Malwarebytes blocks outgoing traffic to malicious websites.

"It's one thing for a machine to be destroyed by malware," he said, "but when you see that Malwarebytes is also helping stop data from being exfiltrated to bad sites, that's huge. I feel good knowing that those sites are being blocked."

High value

D'Angelo said that when you have at least 50 machines per year out for at least a day, it adds up to high staff time and productivity loss—especially when the sales team uses most of those machines for serving customers.

"The bang for the buck we get with Malwarebytes is substantial," said D'Angelo. "Our return on investment is significant for what Malwarebytes protects against."

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Malwarebytes is the next-gen cybersecurity company that millions worldwide trust. Malwarebytes proactively protects people and businesses against dangerous threats such as malware, ransomware, and exploits that escape detection by traditional antivirus solutions. The company's flagship product combines advanced heuristic threat detection with signature-less technologies to detect and stop a cyberattack before damage occurs. More than 10,000 businesses worldwide use, trust, and recommend Malwarebytes. Founded in 2008, the company is headquartered in California, with offices in Europe and Asia, and a global team of threat researchers and security experts.

Santa Clara, CA

malwarebytes.com

corporate-sales@malwarebytes.com

1.800.520.2796