

Organizations are dealing with sophisticated spam attacks, phishing, botnets, mandates and other risk areas that must be managed, says **Nathan Ouellette**.

As the reliance on messaging continues to grow and the value of information increases exponentially, organizations are looking to protect messaging services from vulnerabilities and evolving threats. Inbound and outbound email services represent a tremendous risk to any enterprise,

whether the threats are malicious outside attackers or simply human error from a corporate perspective. Organizations are dealing with sophisticated spam attacks, phishing, botnets, regulatory compliance mandates and several other risk areas that must be managed in order to effectively secure information.

Email content management vendors have recognized the need for more granular control over email security. Features and options continue to converge as appliance vendors are responding to the need to secure malicious inbound emails and data leakage concerns for outbound messages.

Messaging Security Gateway



Vendor	Proofpoint
Price	\$8,500, plus annual user licensing fees
Contact	www.proofpoint.com

Proofpoint Messaging Security Gateway 5.5 is a unified email security appliance that delivers a host of features to protect inbound and outbound messaging.

Based on either a hardware or virtual setup, the product offers real-time protection for SMTP, POP and web-mail messages with many features, including anti-malware, anti-spam, content filtering and email encryption.

Installation is as easy as racking the device and using a keyboard and monitor attached to the appliance. Although the addition of a remote, web-based setup feature would have been nice, initial configuration is straightforward.

Once the appliance is up and running, the interface for its Protection Server is definitely

enterprise class. The web-based dashboard is based on web parts (widgets) that can be dragged and dropped, making for some intuitive configuration exercises. As easy as the interface is to use, the solution itself is very sophisticated. Plenty of enterprise-class features are present, including built-in rule sets based on sender/domain, anti-malware and anti-spam. What really shines in this product is the intuitive way in which users manage smart identifiers. Within the Regulatory Compliance Module, you can filter messages based on regular expressions and other pre-defined regulatory and compliance filters for preventing the leakage of Social Security and credit card numbers. However, within the same module, users can easily add a list of business partners and determine whether or not to apply the filters. The number of useful security features within the solution underscores the fact that this is truly a mature and unified secure messaging platform. Administra-

tors will also appreciate the granular control over logs, quarantine, automated report scheduling and other operational tasks.

Documentation is available online via the appliance itself, or through offline PDF files, which are extensive and easy to read.

Several support packages are available, including gold (eight hours a day/five days a week), platinum (24/7) at eight percent of the license fees, and premium (dedicated account management, training, etc.). The website has many useful options for support, including video tutorials and forums.

SC MAGAZINE RATING

Features	★★★★★
Performance	★★★★★
Ease of use	★★★★★
Documentation	★★★★★
Support	★★★★★
Value for money	★★★★★

OVERALL RATING ★★★★★

Strengths Highly intuitive interface. Robust content filtering options.
Weaknesses None that we found.
Verdict Although the solution is the most expensive one we tested, the granular features make this an excellent value and earn it our Best Buy.



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