

TIGHTENING GLOBAL IT SECURITY AT AXEL SPRINGER

axel springer





AXEL SPRINGER IS ONE OF EUROPE'S LARGEST MEDIA COMPANIES AND HAS ONE CLEAR AMBITION: TO BECOME THE LEADING DIGITAL PUBLISHER.



Media, Press & TV

- *Founded in 1946*
- *In 40+ countries*
- *Headquartered in Berlin, Germany*
- *Using Kaspersky Endpoint Security for Business*

In an age of digitalisation and communication via the internet, the dangers of the web are also growing. To ensure that its IT infrastructure was professionally protected against malware and other attacks, Axel Springer chose to redesign its IT security system with a solution from Kaspersky Lab.

The publishing house was founded in 1946 by Axel Springer and his father Hinrich. And it has experienced continuous growth ever since. With 12,800 employees, over 230 online publications, 300 apps and 220 print titles, the group is a key part of today's international media landscape. Axel Springer SE has subsidiaries, joint ventures and licenses in over 40 countries worldwide.

As a media company of this size, Axel Springer holds a huge network of sensitive data and information that cannot be allowed to get into the wrong hands. So its IT security systems are absolutely vital.

The IT infrastructure at Axel Springer SE currently consists of around 10,000 clients, of which some 6,000 are in the group's Berlin headquarters and 3,000 in its publishing house in Hamburg. All users work with Apple computers, with some also running the Microsoft® Windows operating system. It was therefore important to find a security solution which would be able to monitor and coordinate the heterogeneous IT infrastructure across the two sites.

“The anti-virus solution is very reliable at detecting virus threats within the network. It is easy to configure to suit our specific requirements. It also offers comprehensive reporting features for our support department.”

Harald Monihart, Client DevOps Team Leader at Axel Springer SE

Challenge

Germany’s leading print company communicates with subsidiaries and joint venture partners across the world. Its existing security solution was no longer sufficient for its requirements. The publisher was looking for new security software that would be easy to use and able to detect and remove viruses reliably.

The Kaspersky Lab Solution

Following a testing period where various alternatives were trialed, Axel Springer SE introduced the Kaspersky Security Center 10 solution for Kaspersky Lab Windows and Mac applications in February 2014.

Kaspersky Security Center 10 gives the media group a clear view over all the end points in its company network. It features an intuitive, central interface for all of the Kaspersky Lab functions, which deliver comprehensive security for Axel Springer’s entire IT landscape.

Previously, the publishing house used a security solution from Symantec to protect its clients. But it was no longer performing as well as it needed to. “When we began looking for an alternative, our key concerns were user-friendliness for our end users and performance and success rates for virus detection and removal,” explains Harald Monihart, Client DevOps Team Leader at Axel Springer SE. The company had to choose between solutions from Kaspersky Lab and Norton. Kaspersky Lab was the clear winner when it came to OS X-specific internal tests.



SECURE

Improved detection rate



FASTER

The anti-virus protection works so discreetly that the users do not even notice it



CONTROL

Easy to control and manage

10,000

Clients

12,843

Employees

300

Apps

220

Print titles

Quick and hassle free

Following an eight week testing phase with a demo setup server and 25 OS X clients, the productive server was installed in February 2014. The rollout to 4,500 OS X clients took just six weeks. The error rate was very low at just 1.17 percent, and the installation could run completely in the background without interrupting the users' work with restarts or other interactions. Only one workshop day was needed to introduce the IT administrators and users to the system. This was run by save IT first GbR, a Kaspersky Lab business partner.

In July 2014, the rollout continued to the Windows clients as planned. Today, the company uses Kaspersky Security Center 10 to manage 34 sites, the majority of which are in Germany, centrally.

Positive conclusion

Following the switch from Symantec to Kaspersky Lab, many more clients have access to current databases and performance disruptions are much less frequent. The anti-virus protection works so discreetly that the users do not even notice it. For Harald Monihart, the changeover was a very positive experience: "We truly appreciate the excellent technical knowledge and reliability of the Kaspersky Lab employees. We are very satisfied with the cooperation."

From the client side, the Kaspersky Lab solution is intuitive to use. The server side offers a wide range of configuration options. Axel Springer hopes to protect 10,000 of its clients by the end of 2014.

Kaspersky Lab Partners

Save IT first GbR from Trier, Germany, taught the employees of Axel Springer how to use the new system and, in its role as a Kaspersky Lab partner, was always available to answer questions they had regarding its installation and configuration.



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PROTECTION

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