

CASE STUDY

Compliance - Financial Times

The Client

The Financial Times Group is one of the world's leading business information companies, with the Financial Times newspaper printed in 18 international cities it is one of the world's fastest growing international readerships. The Financial Times uses its Internet and Extranet infrastructure for a range of business critical functions including; client facing services, electronic mail, connection to international print sites, remote office connectivity, remote access for Financial Times employees and connections to group companies.

Policy Compliance

In October 2003, independent IT security consultancy, MIS Corporate Defence Solutions (MIS CDS) completed a project for the Financial Times which ensured that it complied with its parent company, Pearson's, strict security policy and with industry standards such as BS 7799 and later, Sarbanes-Oxley.

MIS CDS has been involved with Financial Times IT department since 2001 and, on this occasion, was commissioned to bring the company's network in line with a detailed security policy that was strongly focussed on best business practices. This was not just a 'tick in the box' exercise like it is for many organisations, the Financial Times wanted to review its policy from the ground up and make sure that every eventuality was covered.

Risk Analysis

MIS CDS carried out twenty days of investigative consultancy work, producing a risk analysis of the Financial Times Extranet infrastructure which included; asset identification and classification, risk assessment, business requirements, network design and the requirements of the holding company's policy.

The results of the risk analysis allowed MIS CDS to perform a complete overhaul of the company's Intranet and Extranet infrastructure prioritising security spending in the areas that mattered and ensuring that it met with Pearson's stringent security policy.

Selecting Security Tools

MIS CDS' security engineers carried out extensive product testing for suitability within the Financial Times' environment, completing thorough bench mark tests and supplying comprehensible reports that enabled the Financial Times' project team to work alongside MIS CDS in product selection meetings. The eventual product choices were all business driven and complied with the relevant policies.

Selected Tools;

- 1 Check Point VPN-1 on Sun iForce hardware.
- 2 Cisco PIX Firewalls.
- 3 High Availability and fail over with Rainfinity.
- 4 A web security solution based on BlueCoat, Trend and Websense;
 - Websense is pre-installed on the BlueCoat device and provides access control/URL filtering.
 - Trend provides comprehensive web based anti-virus protection.

After each tool was assessed and agreed, MIS CDS' engineers spent a further forty days implementing and configuring the system, the entire Financial Times solution is supported by MIS CDS.

Auditing

The work that MIS CDS carried out meant that the Financial Times complied with Pearson's security policy down to the finest detail and the policy was so business driven that when the Financial Times underwent a Sarbanes-Oxley audit in 2006, it passed with flying colours thanks to this previous project.

"The main issue facing the Financial Times was simply that its existing Internet and Extranet infrastructures were becoming out dated," says Etienne Greeff, Professional Services Director, MIS CDS. "Pearson's security policy lead to a hugely complex compliance project, but the outcome was extremely successful and any potential security gaps are now closed."

"The Financial Times trusts MIS CDS' opinion, which is why this entire solution is co-managed by the two organisations," says Edd Scrine, Head of Operational Strategy, Financial Times. "We were so pleased with this endeavour that we have replicated the infrastructure in New York and have extended our initial 1 year contract with MIS CDS for another 3 years."

About MIS Corporate Defence Solutions Ltd

Founded in 1992 and based in Maidstone, Kent, MIS Corporate Defence Solutions Ltd is the UK's longest standing, independent IT security consultancy, providing businesses with an unbiased approach to managed security services. The company guarantees that each security tool supplied is the best solution for the intended purpose, and utilising its in-house expertise, strives to lead its clients through the security cycle. Working in partnership with companies to ensure that their networks and websites constantly retain optimum security, MIS CDS has the ability to diagnose an organisation's vulnerabilities, secure its assets, and manage and update its security infrastructure on a proactive 24 x 7 basis. www.mis-cds.com.

About The Financial Times Group

The Financial Times Group, one of the world's leading business information companies, aims to provide a broad range of business information, analysis and services to a growing audience of internationally minded business people. **The Financial Times** newspaper is printed in 23, soon to be 24 cities around the world and has one of the world's fastest growing international readerships. **FT.com**, the newspaper's internet partner, combines agenda-setting editorial with relevant financial data and discussion groups, as well as a broad range of business tools including the largest search function on the internet. **FT Investor**, part of **FT.com**, provides free, fast, incisive, real-time financial and market news to Europe's rapidly growing community of private investors.



MIS Corporate Defence Solutions, MIS House, Hermitage Court, Hermitage Lane, Maidstone ME16 9NT
T: 01622 723400 F: 01622 728580 www.mis-cds.com

MIS Corporate Defence Solutions, Unit 8, Cedarwood, Crockford Lane, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG24 8WD
T: 01622 723400 F: 01622 728580 www.mis-cds.com