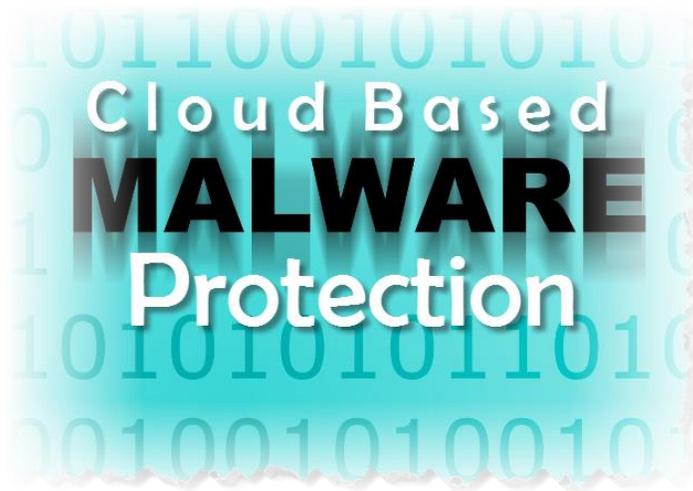


*A look at some of the most popular technology gifts this Christmas
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Day 2 –Cloud-based Malware Protection for Business (Don't get a Surprise for Christmas that Brings you No Joy)

This article will explain what Cloud based malware protection is, how it works and why it may be important to your small business.



Note:

Answers to yesterday's Songs of Seasons are now [available!](#)

Introduction:

Everywhere you turn these days you see another Cloud based solution, chances are you are already using one and may not even know it. Recently, the traditional software you are familiar with, which is used for protecting your computers and mobile devices against threats like viruses and malware may also have started providing Cloud based Solutions.

The Downside to Anti-Virus Software

Traditionally, consumers would purchase antivirus software, and install it to their local computers, then that software would reach out to the Internet and update the virus signatures from a database so that the computer would be protected from virus threats that may attempt to be released onto the system. There were and still are ongoing issues with this method that leave holes in the system and create vulnerabilities.

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For example, if the anti-virus software was offline and did not get the current virus signature update, the system is then at risk for any threats newer than the current protection version installed. Another big problem is that many anti-virus software only protects against viruses once the threat is released onto the system, and then it is blocked and quarantined hopefully before any irreversible damage can be done.



These Anti-virus protection software programs are not made to stop the Malware that transports these viruses onto the systems in the first place. This often leaves users having to download, and run anti-malware software on their systems after a virus is cleaned off due to other strange things that accompanied it. This is handled in a very reactive and not proactive manner.

On the business side, typically a business will have a Central Server based Monitoring and Management Center, the software then needs to be installed on these servers, and the Network agents and Protection Software that are installed on the local systems then communicates back to the server which normally is on premise at the client site or in a data centre. The sheer volume of these individual Server Centers across many multiples of client sites can become a very challenging task in keeping them all updated to the same versions, and to manage all the individual client site end points.

Benefits of Cloud based Malware Protection

Recently we took a look at a new Malware Cloud solution proposed for our client base and we were pleasantly surprised by what we found. We threw over 600 malware threats containing viruses at one computer with Cloud Malware protection installed and it stopped every one of them. We were very impressed with this result as you can imagine.

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From an administration point of view, Cloud based solutions make it much easier to manage many clients under one Web based management center. The other obvious benefit being that the one management center is always up-to-date across all clients.

The other benefit is the small Protection Agent that is deployed onto the End Point systems; it takes very little space and does not require any additional protection software to be installed, and required fewer resources to run.

The Malware Protection Agent acts as a gate keeper, and protects your system by preventing malicious software from getting past it and onto the system where it could then release a virus. It checks all known software and identifies suspicious activity and stops it before the problems occur, if something new is discovered at any client site, it is immediately added to the Central Cloud Center and then put in place to protect all other systems globally in a very proactive way.

The Only Drawback to Consider

Cloud based Malware Protection is **not** Anti-Virus protection, so if by some extremely unlikely chance that a malicious program were to infiltrate the system (Computer or Mobile Device), then the Malware software would not be able to do a post clean of the virus infection. This is why it makes sense to have both Malware Protection and Anti-Virus Protection on the system, and unlike having two antivirus programs on the same computer which is not recommended because they would conflict with each other, having Malware Protection and Anti-Virus Protection working together would not be a problem.

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This idea of protecting against Malware transport software first and then Virus threats second is the more sensible and effective way to protect your business systems.

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