

Royal Veterinary College immunized endpoints against ransomware infections

Malwarebytes stopped ransomware while delivering visibility into endpoint health

INDUSTRY

Education

BUSINESS CHALLENGE

Add a layer of defense specifically against ransomware and malware

IT ENVIRONMENT

Microsoft System Center Endpoint Protection, enterprise-level security layers

SOLUTION

Malwarebytes Endpoint Security

RESULTS

- Stopped ransomware attacks and malware outbreaks from infecting endpoints
- Added stronger protection against targeted attacks
- Enabled plug-and-play deployment with no impact to user endpoints
- Gained visibility into threats, incidents, and trends

Business profile

The Royal Veterinary College (RVC) is the largest, longest-established vet school in the English-speaking world. Part of the University of London, RVC produces world-class research and supports veterinarians through its Queen Mother Hospital for Animals and Equine Clinic. RVC suffered a ransomware attack and infection in 2013. With Malwarebytes, they've never had another ransomware infection.



The most significant benefit of Malwarebytes is protection from ransomware, exploits, and other malware. We haven't had any outbreaks since 2014. It was money well spent.

—Farukh Zeeshan, Chief Information Officer, Royal Veterinary College, University of London

Business challenge

Valuable data is a large target

Royal Veterinary College spans two campuses—one is the Camden campus and the other is the Hawkshead campus in Hertfordshire. State-of-the-art treatment, imaging, and research facilities at both campuses generate high volumes of data and are supported by 30 IT staff members. When ransomware attacked, it managed to encrypt more than 1 TB of data.

“At the time, we relied on antivirus software,” said Farukh Zeeshan, Chief Information Officer at RVC. “We recovered the data, and when we did, we began looking for better protection from malware and ransomware.”

When the data was encrypted, the IT team took machines offline and began forensic analysis. Fortunately, few of the machines had access to shared files, which limited the spread of the infection. However, cleanup required most of the team running scans on centralized data, searching for anomalous file patterns, and uncovering additional hidden threats. Once they had forensic data, it took a day or two to re-image the infected computers.



“The worst part was that we had no visibility into the ransomware,” said Zeeshan. “What if it infected other machines that didn’t exhibit symptoms? What else could be infected? We wouldn’t know unless someone complained. It was clear we needed more protection.”

The solution

Malwarebytes Endpoint Security

When RVC decided to add a layer of security specifically targeting malware and advanced threats, it evaluated a number of potential solutions, including Kaspersky, Symantec, and McAfee.

“We had seen all three of those solutions compromised more than once,” said Zeeshan. “It was very clear that we didn’t want to have all of our eggs in the antivirus basket. I already knew about Malwarebytes, and we wanted to learn more.”

Online forums and several peers within higher education institutions highly recommended Malwarebytes, and Zeeshan learned that a colleague used Malwarebytes at his college—a much larger university that had previously experienced serious problems with malware and ransomware. The university highly recommended Malwarebytes, and after trialing it for a few days, RVC knew it was the right thing to do.

Plug and play

As a Microsoft campus, RVC already used Microsoft Endpoint Protection. The IT team had run into computer performance problems, blue screens, and application issues with the three antivirus solutions they tested. When they ran Malwarebytes with the Microsoft antivirus—everything worked as it should.

“It was a valid decision to use the Microsoft software we already had and purchase Malwarebytes for additional protection,” said Zeeshan. “Honestly, it was plug and play to deploy it across both campuses.”

Zeeshan’s team deployed Malwarebytes using Microsoft System Center Configuration Manager. They installed Malwarebytes on Windows, deployed policies and definitions, packaged the software, and tested it before rolling out to all of their endpoints.

Protection with performance

“The most significant benefit of Malwarebytes is protection from ransomware, exploits, and other malware,” said Zeeshan. “We haven’t had any outbreaks since 2014. It was money well spent.”

Malwarebytes has a very small footprint on the endpoint and runs transparently in the background. Regardless of whether the user relies on a powerful research workstation or a basic PC, Malwarebytes delivers outstanding protection without compromising user productivity.

Visibility inspires confidence

Malwarebytes also gave RVC the ability to report on malware activity on its computers and remediation for the first time. Zeeshan regularly provided status reports to the Information Security Group. His reports covered all of RVC’s security measures, and now they include data on malware that was stopped and malware-related alerts.

“Our security team and overseeing committee are highly aware of the current threat landscape,” said Zeeshan. “They aren’t really surprised by the amount of threats that target RVC—they’re happy and confident that Malwarebytes and our other solutions are doing their jobs.”

| About

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