

Virus-free Zone



With its central location, the University Hospital of Zurich is an important cornerstone of basic healthcare provision for both the city and Canton. A total of 29 clinics and institutions ensure the highest and most comprehensive level of service. Great importance is also attached to maximum care and quality when recording patient and research data. For this reason, the hospital has opted to participate in the Canton's security initiative. Accordingly, F-Secure's virus protection guarantees the confidentiality and integrity of the data of the hospital and the offices of the Canton of Zurich.

Based on the number of its inhabitants, the Canton of Zurich is the largest in Switzerland, with 171 municipalities. The highest-level executive body is the Government Council. It undertakes its administrative duties with a total of seven directorates, which are in turn subdivided into individual local authorities and concerns such as the University Hospital. In addition, the IT Planning Department (AIP), which is based in the Finance section, also carries out IT security tasks. This is because ultimately the confidentiality of personal data such as patient information or tax details is given high priority. In recent times, the problem of viruses has not only grown but is also spreading much faster than before. The ever-more widespread use of Internet and email in local authorities and other cantonal institutions made it necessary to improve virus and worm protection at the level of individual employees' workstations and in this regard F-Secure Anti-Virus was chosen.

Changeover Made Easy

In Cantonal Administration, different solutions from other suppliers have been used on desktop PCs in addition to F-Secure for many years. Now, however, F-Secure's virus scanner has already replaced over 50 percent and is currently used on around 8,400 workstations – mostly on the Windows XP operating system. The University Hospital is the largest of these licensees. "In principle, the directorates are free to choose their IT security solution," says Philipp Luthiger, Deputy Manager of AIP. "However, we were won over by the scope of F-Secure. We therefore recommend the use of F-Secure to local authorities. Several have changed over in recent months."

Kanton Zürich

At a glance:

- Customer:** Canton of Zurich
- Project:** Centrally managed virus protection for securing desktop PCs
- Solutions:** F-Secure Anti-Virus and F-Secure Policy Manager
- Users:** Around 8400
- Partners:** Abraxas AG and Seatech Computersystems AG



Migration has never presented any problems. If an administrative body opts for F-Secure, the Canton's administration purchases, installs and maintains the software. For optimal care of the 24 local authorities and concerns that use F-Secure virus protection, the Canton has formed strong partnerships with the companies Abraxas AG (second-level and additional support) and Seatech Computersystems AG (third-level support and licensing). The Swiss IT service provider Seatech devises customised solution concepts with the Zurich Cantonal Central Office for Printed Matter and Material (Kantonale Drucksachen- und Materialzentrale, KDMZ), which has since assumed central licensing and user management of the IT Planning department as a purchasing and sales organisation.

The Emergency Plan in the Drawer

The Canton of Zurich is also ideally equipped for a crisis. The IT Security Task Force was founded to promptly and quickly restrict a threat in the event of a serious security risk. "It's the IT Fire Brigade of the Canton," says Luthiger, describing the cross-administration committee consisting of 12 people. "This special team takes action if large sections of the administrative network are threatened, and is empowered to take unpopular decisions, such as cutting off Internet access or specific segments of the network."

Risk of Infection Eliminated

Emergency deployments of the IT Security Task Force have so far been unnecessary. This is due in part to F-Secure Anti-Virus. With

three scanning engines used simultaneously, the software detects every infection. Each month, the scanner intercepts several hundred viruses, and even several hundred per minute in the event of large virus outbreaks. That said, there is still work to be done because if, as in the case of the University Hospital of Zurich, several thousand clients are equipped with virus protection and need to be continuously updated, defending against digital viruses can easily constitute a significant workload. However, the IT administrators in Cantonal Administration rarely break a sweat. F-Secure Anti-Virus was rolled out in the network quickly and easily. New virus signatures are updated and distributed automatically to each individual desktop as needed several times a day – saving time and money, and keeping the level of protection up to date.

Summary

In the office environment, viruses can cause troublesome infections such as colds or flus. In the world of computers, they have developed from mere pests into a true menace. And similarly, only if a remedy is quickly administered can a global epidemic be prevented. As a result, the researchers in the F-Secure Viral Laboratory in Finland have been working around the clock. They are often among the first to provide digital immunisation – virus signature updates – when new viruses emerge. In this way, enterprises such as the University Hospital of Zurich are protected from infection before the PC virus spreads its way around the world.

F-Secure Corporation protects individuals and businesses against computer viruses and other threats coming through the Internet or mobile networks. Our award-winning solutions include antivirus, desktop firewall with intrusion prevention and network encryption. Our key strength is the speed of response to new threats. For businesses our solutions feature centralized management. Founded in 1988, F-Secure has been listed on the Helsinki Exchanges since 1999. We have our headquarters in Helsinki, Finland, and offices in USA, France, Germany, Italy, Sweden, the United Kingdom and Japan. F-Secure is supported by a global ecosystem of value added resellers and distributors in over 50 countries. F-Secure protection is also available through major Internet Service Providers, such as Deutsche Telekom, France Telecom and Charter Communications.

"F-Secure" and the triangle symbol are registered trademarks of F-Secure Corporation and F-Secure product names and symbols/logos are either trademarks or registered trademarks of F-Secure Corporation. Other product and company names mentioned herein may be trademarks of their respective owners. Copyright © 2004 F-Secure Corporation. All rights reserved. 041220eng