

Case Study

Premier Sheet Metal

Premier Sheet Metal is a world leading supplier of precision engineering and craftsmanship services.

Prototyping work for clients like Aston Martin, Jaguar and Rolls Royce means that Premier Sheet Metal takes security and confidentiality very seriously.

The NetPilot was chosen to protect the company's network and data from internet security threats like hackers, viruses and spyware, and to allow the company to control and monitor website access and block SPAM emails.

The installed NetPilots also provide a secure Virtual Private Network (VPN) that enables the company to safely conduct business between its four midlands based sites. Using the VPN, senior managers can now access the business from home or while travelling, and the company's networking supplier can remotely manage and maintain the company's systems.

The NetPilot has proven itself to be a very reliable and cost-effective solution. Premier Sheet Metal already have plans to extend their VPN using the NetPilot to connect up other businesses in the Premier group.



Case Study

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NetPilot
Internet Security

Premier Sheet Metal is part of the Premier Group, a world-leading supplier of precision engineering and craftsmanship services. The company's client list reads like a who's who of the top car manufacturers - Aston Martin, Jaguar, Rolls Royce, Volvo and Land Rover, and the group employs around 150 people with a multi-million pound turnover. Premier Sheet Metal provides a range of services including CAD, pressing, assembly and finishing, and prides itself on the quality and speed of turn around of its prototyping work.

Premier Sheet Metal is equally demanding when it comes to information and communications technology. The nature of its business requires the very highest levels of security, confidentiality, speed and reliability. Large CAD files and other information need to be shared with-in the group and with clients, and the company needs to be able to track and monitor work items from start to finish across its four sites. Also, with an eye to the bottom line, all solutions need to be cost-effective to purchase and run.

New Network Infrastructure

Premier Sheet Metal first approached networking and security specialist Connect4Communications around two years ago to help them build out and update their network and computer infrastructure. Connect4Communications pride themselves on being independent, and on implementing innovative solutions. In fact, Premier Sheet Metal now entrust Connect4Communications with the day to day running and management of their ICT infrastructure on an outsource basis.

The project has so far involved the installation of fibre optic and wireless communications to provide connectivity between the four sites that Premier Sheet Metal run in the West Midlands, and new production control software has allowed the company to accurately track and monitor projects from start to finish. The company has also ditched its costly ISDN connection in favour of broadband connectivity, and has introduced secure remote connectivity to enable its directors and senior managers to monitor the business from home or while travelling.

Network Security and Secure Access

Security and confidentiality are of paramount importance to the business, especially when it comes to providing remote connectivity, and in protecting the network and the company's data from threats like computer viruses, spyware and hackers.

Connect4Communications had no hesitation in recommending NetPilot's products to provide these crucial functions. The NetPilot is one of the UK's leading multi-function security devices, and the only one to carry full certification from independent testing organisation CheckMark. The NetPilot was specifically designed for SMEs, and its SmartUTM (Unified Threat Management) software offers the most comprehensive range of protection available on the market, including anti-virus, anti-spam, anti-spyware, and intruder detection and intruder prevention. The NetPilot also offers a Firewall to protect data, secure VPN for remote connectivity, and URL Filtering to help companies control and limit user access to only approved websites.

Paul Vuckovic of Connect4Communications explains "NetPilot are the pioneers of multi-function UTM (Unified Threat Management) security devices. This all-in-one approach not only makes the NetPilot a very cost-effective solution, but also easier to set-up and manage. We have looked at similar solutions, but only recommend NetPilot to our clients. It's a very reliable and comprehensive package"

The NetPilot is installed at the boundary of the network, between the broadband connection and the company's servers, and provides VPN remote connectivity and internet access. This gives maximum protection for sensitive data, and ensures that threats are stopped before they enter the network. There have been no performance issues, even with the high-volume of large CAD files, and it has been 100% reliable since the day it was installed. The SmartUTM software is also regularly updated to provide on-going protection from new and emerging threats.

Other Benefits

There have also been a number of spin-off benefits. By using the NetPilot's URL Filtering capability, Premier Sheet Metal is now able to offer its employees safe and secure internet access during their lunch break. Paul Sullivan MD of Premier Sheet Metal stated "our employees can use the internet to book holidays or send emails during this time, and the company is able to control which sites can be viewed and can monitor mis-use. This protects and benefits both our employees and the company".

Another spin-off benefit is Connect4Communications can now provide remote support and maintenance for Premier Sheet Metal's infrastructure by connecting through the secure VPN via a NetPilot installed at their premises. They can fix most problems in minutes which previously would have involved a lengthy car journey or a costly on-site engineer. Connect4Communications can also monitor the NetPilot log files, to be able to identify and react more quickly to certain types of threats, and to track any mis-use of the network by employees.

The Future

Paul Sullivan adds "we are extremely pleased with their new infrastructure. It is secure, fast and reliable, and provides us with a solid and cost-effective platform for growing the business". The company takes full advantage of the NetPilot's capabilities, including secure VPN and Firewall support, URL Filtering and protection from security threats. Future plans include extending the VPN using the NetPilot to connect up with other businesses within the Group.

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