



The **University of Bedfordshire** turns to Sophos for ransomware protection and GDPR compliance

Customer-at-a-Glance

University of Bedfordshire

Industry

Education

Number of Staff

20,000

Sophos Solutions

Sophos Enterprise Console
Sophos SafeGuard Encryption
Intercept X

Sophos Customer

Since 2013



The University of Bedfordshire is a modern, innovative university with a heritage of top-quality education going back more than 100 years. With campuses in Luton, Bedford, Milton Keynes, and Aylesbury, it welcomes 20,000 students from over 120 countries.



'The antivirus within the Sophos Enterprise Console is more robust than we have experienced with other products in the past. It ticks a lot of boxes.'

Martin Borg, computing officer
University of Bedfordshire

Martin Borg is the computing officer at the University of Bedfordshire. He talks about how the IT team at the university is acutely aware of the changing threat landscape and how they turned to Sophos to prevent a serious attack or data breach from ever occurring in the future.

Business Challenge

The two major IT security challenges faced by the University of Bedfordshire were:

▸ Ransomware threats

Although the University of Bedfordshire has never experienced a ransomware attack before, Borg was aware of the increasing prevalence of ransomware. He began seeking a suitable solution to keep students, files, and data at the university safe.

▸ GDPR compliance

Safeguarding students and data became a priority for the university when GDPR legislation was introduced in 2018. Martin planned to install a new encryption product in order to comply.

The university asked a number of IT security providers to suggest suitable solutions through a tender. Sophos partner Academia, based in Enfield, won the tender and went on to recommend Sophos solutions.

The technical solution

The solutions recommended by Academia included:

- On-premises Sophos Enterprise Console for sophisticated threat protection coupled with a simple, intuitive user experience
- Intercept X for protection against ransomware attacks, providing a unique combination of deep learning malware detection and exploit prevention
- Sophos SafeGuard Encryption to support GDPR compliance

The university also soon plans to switch to cloud-based Sophos Central in order to synchronise their security, better connect sites and offices across the country, and make savings on hardware costs.

Business benefits

Martin is particularly impressed with the Sophos solutions he has implemented based on advice from Academia, and the benefits the university now experiences, including:

▸ Improved antivirus provision

The university now uses an updated antivirus solution as part of the on-premises Sophos Enterprise Console that has been implemented. According to Martin: "There have been no outbreaks and it ticks all the boxes."

▸ Unfailing ransomware protection

Intercept X from Sophos is now also in use at the university. According to Martin, it "works effectively, stops ransomware in its tracks and restores files in minutes if required." Root cause analysis lets Martin see any malware attempts and where they came from.

▸ Encryption for GDPR compliance

Sophos advised the University to use Sophos SafeGuard Encryption alongside BitLocker, an ideal solution to support GDPR compliance. It encrypts content as soon as it is created and is always on. If data ever ends up in the wrong hands, SafeGuard Encryption renders the information unusable.

The university has signed up to a five-year deal with Sophos and looks forward to transitioning to the cloud, supported by both Sophos and Academia. In the meantime, Martin is confident that the university is now fully protected against all IT security threats including ransomware, and is pleased that the IT team is able to support GDPR compliance.



'The team at Sophos are great. We have a good relationship with our account manager and they are all really helpful. They absolutely know what they are talking about and they always listen to our feedback.'

Martin Borg, computing officer
University of Bedfordshire



'To see this project come to fruition was a testament to our ability to bring together our strong customer relationships and knowledge of the software security market to achieve the right outcome. This was clearly demonstrated in our understanding of exactly what the University of Bedfordshire were looking to achieve – effective security and full protection.'

Jeremy Silver

vendor and alliances manager, Academia

To find out more about Sophos solutions,
call [0]8447 671131 or email sales@sophos.com.

United Kingdom and Worldwide Sales
Tel: +44 (0)8447 671131
Email: sales@sophos.com

North American Sales
Toll Free: 1-866-866-2802
Email: nasales@sophos.com

Australia and New Zealand Sales
Tel: +61 2 9409 9100
Email: sales@sophos.com.au

Asia Sales
Tel: +65 62244168
Email: salesasia@sophos.com