

ECS European Containers

Intermodal Logistics Operator

ECS European Containers is an intermodal logistics operator, specialized in container transport between the UK, Ireland and the European continent with its headquarters in Zeebrugge, Belgium. The logistics company operates a fleet of 5.000 ambient 45 ft containers and 1.000 reefer units and furthermore owns a fleet of 300 trucks moved by 800 drivers. At its 30.000 m² warehouse in Zeebrugge, ECS provides storage solutions in ambient or temperature-controlled conditions.

Additionally they offer complete logistics services ranging from crossdocking to consolidation and storage with value added services. Protection against security threats, insight into employee productivity and more control of network bandwidth, while saving on infrastructure and maintenance costs were the main drivers to implement the Internet Security Platform of Zscaler.

THE CHALLENGE

ICT is integrated into the entire service life cycle of ECS European Containers supporting transport planning, warehouse management and other paperless processes. 13 employees in the headquarter in Zeebrugge manage a centralized ICT environment for all locations of the company. “We had been running an on premises server-based solution for quite some time, which was reaching its limits”, explains Tijs Blancquaert, ICT Manager at ECS European Containers, who is responsible to provide secure Internet access as business critical requirement for ECS. As the incumbent solution did not support SSL inspection, it also failed to deliver full protection against modern malware. Furthermore the solution offered some employees unrestricted outbound access to the internet. “But most of all, the old solution didn’t offer the protection we needed. It also proved to be rather difficult and expensive to manage and maintain.”

THE SOLUTION

Based on these challenges ECS European Containers was looking for a new Internet access gateway. “We focused on reviewing the pros and cons of on premises and cloud solutions”, Blancquaert continues. “We wanted a solution with an Internet access gateway that is easily manageable and offers all the



THE CHALLENGE

- The on premise server-based solution was reaching its limits and was difficult to maintain
- It didn’t support SSL inspection, failed to deliver full protection against viruses and other malware
- Employees had unrestricted outbound access to the internet

SOLUTION EVALUATION

- ECS compared on premises and cloud solutions

THE ZSCALER DIFFERENCE

- Higher security, less hassle
- Reduction of infrastructure and maintenance costs
- No more bandwidth issues

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER



security services we required, without the security risks, time-consuming configuration and management issues of the past.” The Internet Security Platform with Web Business Suite offered the perfect solution to overcome existing limitations.

THE ZSCALER DIFFERENCE

Higher security, less hassle

The comprehensive cloud-based Internet Security Platform protects employees from malware, viruses, advanced persistent threats and other security risks. It is able to stop inadvertent or malicious leaks of a company’s sensitive data. Zscaler scans and filters all network traffic to and from the Internet, including SSL-encrypted sessions. “We first came across Zscaler in a Gartner report”, Blancquaert continues. “When we decided to move forward with Zscaler, we were pleased to find out that the solution is part of Uptime Group’s portfolio, as we already cooperated successfully with this provider on several other infrastructure projects.”

Managing productivity loss

The cloud-based solution provides the benefits of not having to host and maintain an internal security concept and additionally reduces infrastructure and maintenance costs. Zscaler’s reports offer instant insight into threats, combined with real-time recommendations on how to improve the company’s security posture. “The reports give us an overview of inbound security incidents, including malware, viruses and attacks that were blocked, as well as violations of our Internet use policy.” To manage outbound access to the Internet ECS was able to define different URL classes: professional, productivity loss and bandwidth loss. “Our employees have general internet access with just a few restrictions. Websites classified as productivity loss, such as webmail, social networks, streaming media, entertainment or shopping can be

visited, but only for a daily quota of one hour.” Content like adult content, hacking, hate and extremism are blocked at all times.

” Zscaler protects us against inbound and outbound security threats, while keeping productivity loss and excessive bandwidth consumption under control. ”

– *Tijs Blancquaert, ICT Manger, ECS European Containers*

No more bandwidth issues and cost reductions

Throughout the implementation Uptime Group was the company’s single point of contact. “A Proof of Concept allowed us to get a first taste of how Zscaler works in a real live environment.” Uptime Group supported a swift start of the actual implementation. Even if security was the main driver for this project, ECS today profits from more benefits as the Security Platform help to solve network bandwidth issues. “These issues were also related to the excessive use of streaming media. Since we started working with Zscaler and were able to implement a user quota on streaming media, no more performance issues were detected. As a result we don’t need to upgrade to a higher capacity internet connection.”






Zscaler also allowed ECS to secure outbound Internet traffic from employees at branch offices. Previously the company connected locations via Zeebrugge over a VPN connection to break out to the internet. “This wasn’t the most efficient way to address the need for secure Internet access, but we didn’t want to install an Internet access gateway at those branch offices either. Today all employees at our branch offices are fully protected and enjoy fast local internet access.”

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