

Computing Security

Secure systems, secure data, secure people, secure business

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NEWS
OPINION
INDUSTRY
COMMENT
CASE STUDIES
PRODUCT REVIEWS

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IronKey Enterprise

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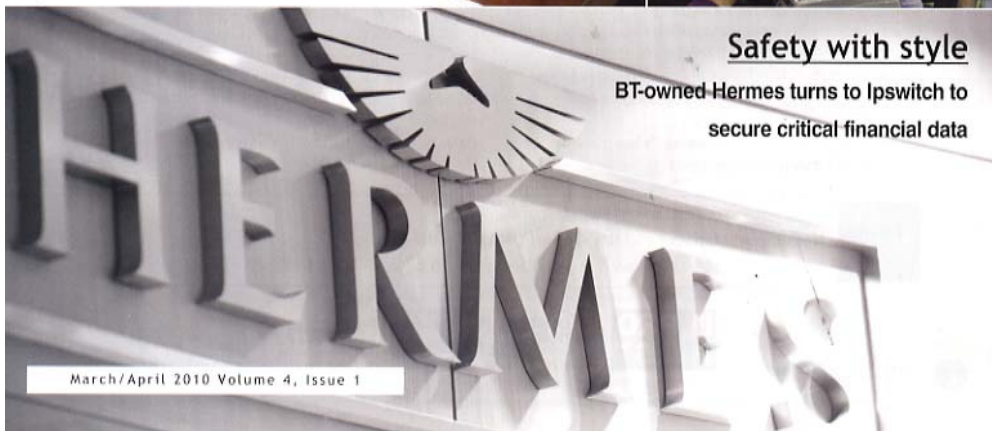
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Safety with style

BT-owned Hermes turns to Ipswitch to secure critical financial data



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case study



With collective awareness of data breaches at an all-time high many financial institutions are working hard to implement policies and solutions that protect sensitive information. This also serves to protect their reputations and competitiveness. In today's digital world, critical financial data is being sent back and forth between businesses and individuals at speeds faster than anyone ever thought possible. While this information exchange allows financial institutions to deliver higher levels of service and capitalise on emerging growth opportunities, it can also leave them vulnerable to security breaches and data leaks.

Hermes, a multi-specialist asset manager owned by the BT Pension Scheme, deals with a huge amount of sensitive data and wanted a better way to transfer it. It required a versatile security solution for which they turned to Ipswitch, installing their MOVEit DMZ solution.

"We needed to host an FTP site so that people could post information to us, which obviously needed to be very secure due to the sensitivity of the data," explains Jamie Dewar, Technical Services Manager at Hermes. "We didn't host FTP before as we were a 'pull only' organisation and just used the basic Microsoft tools. However, due to changing business requirements we required an enterprise-class FTP solution that was highly secure."

Having recognised the need for a solution, Hermes evaluated several products that were placed in Gartner's Magic Quadrant. They also took into account other people's thoughts and experiences.

Dewar enthuses, "We looked at reviews, what others were using, and what the people we work with used. This led us to evaluate the MOVEit DMZ solution from Ipswitch and we found that it met our requirements of flexibility, reliability, and security. We particularly liked the way the server partitions itself up in MOVEit, that everything on the server is encrypted, and that MOVEit automatically replicates any changes in its configuration to the mirror MOVEit servers at our DR site."

To keep fully updated with market activity and to provide the level of service that our clients expect, Hermes shares and receives a wide range of highly sensitive data with a number of third parties. It typically downloads a lot of time-sensitive market data overnight, pulling down several million rows of information. Dewar comments, "MOVEit DMZ has proven to be very reliable since deployment".

RELIABLE AND FLEXIBLE SOLUTION

MOVEit's API interface option provides third-party programs (including Web applications) with programmatic access to MOVEit DMZ

transfers, storage and user database services, and to its users, folder, permissions and reporting functions. This option has enabled Hermes to easily integrate its job scheduler, which it uses to download vital information.

This means it fits in well with overnight processing, which used to be manual. Dewar adds, "We've got a new job scheduler and MOVEit ties in nicely with it through the APIs, feeding any error codes back to the scheduler. For example, when the job scheduler is loading up the data hub with information from Bloomberg, it calls MOVEit to go and get the file, and then MOVEit returns an error code or success code, and the scheduler knows to continue processing that data, otherwise it will stop, exit and take some other action."

This integration means that the IT team can easily establish if a data transfer has been successful with status information being placed in designated folders. MOVEit in turn polls these folders according to its schedule and then performs the configured action, such as FTP, archive, copy and so on.

Dewar concludes, "If required, we can also configure it to send success/fail emails to relevant parties. The advanced error checking and reporting has been very useful. If something hasn't happened, it is easy to find out why." CS