Gusmus Electric Company

After being negatively impacted by several viruses, the utilities company decided to implement Micro Focus® Secure Messaging Gateway to catch potentially harmful email content at the perimeter.

Overview
Gusmus Electric Company, Inc. in Memphis, Tennessee has been serving the electrical needs of Memphis and the Mid-South for more than 25 years. The 65 employees of Gusmus strive to make the company 'the most innovative and progressive in the industry' through the services of its own Engineering Department, an expansive Service Division, and an Exterior Lighting Division.

Part of insuring this success in the industry is providing a line of communication between departments, divisions, employees, and customers. Like most companies, this line of communication is dominated by email. Successful transferring of email is vital to the success of Gusmus.

Challenge
Gusmus Electric Company was hit with the Sobig worm through its Microsoft Exchange server. The worm brought down the Windows server, which was the host for the Exchange, proxy, and accounting application. Having lost the Exchange server meant that all communication through email was lost. Gusmus Electric was unable to communicate with clients, between divisions, and between departments. Anxious to fix the Sobig worm problem, Ralph Gusmus, owner of Gusmus Electric, called his principal solution provider for Exchange. What Ralph found was that his provider was busy servicing complaints just like his. Ralph and Gusmus Electric were forced to wait until a service provider could assist them with their problem. Because waiting meant shutting down communication, Lee Gusmus, IT Director for Gusmus Electric, called Rob Oeding at Network Engineers. Because Network Engineers services primarily Micro Focus clients, many of their representatives were available to help. The Sobig worm had been directed towards Microsoft, leaving Micro Focus users unaffected. After identifying and removing the worm, Rob learned that this had been one of three instances in the past month in which Gusmus Electric had been affected by viruses. Understanding that taking time to fight these viruses cost Gusmus Electric time, resources, and money, Rob Oeding offered a solution to Ralph and Lee Gusmus.

Solution
The Network Engineers solution included a new Linux server. The new server included Micro Focus GroupWise® and was deployed along with Micro Focus Secure Messaging Gateway for its virus scanning and spam filtering abilities. All Exchange data was migrated from the Windows server to the new Linux server. Following the migration, the role of the Windows server was changed to be exclusively the application server for the company’s accounting application. Gusmus Electric

At a Glance

| Industry | Energy & Utilities |
| Location | United States |
| Challenge | The organization needed to thwart email-bound viruses. |
| Solution | Use Secure Messaging Gateway to identify harmful email content before it becomes an issue. |
| Results | + Reduced email load by 38% + Identified 43 emails with viruses in a 30-day span |
Company’s employees have enthusiastically embraced GroupWise and the new features it provides for collaboration. Secure Messaging Gateway, in conjunction with GroupWise, has reduced Gusmus’ email load by 38%. In a 30-day span between September and October, Secure Messaging Gateway identified 43 emails containing viruses. Most importantly for Gusmus Electric Company, the company has not had to make any service calls related to virus problems.

**Results**

Lee Gusmus sums up the company’s satisfaction with the GroupWise and Secure Messaging Gateway solution best: “I have not had to touch the server—and that’s what I like. Because with our Exchange server, once or twice a week I would have to go in and figure out what was wrong. This new solution has been a very smooth running operation. Rob told me that it would be, and I’ve been very pleased.”