NHS
Bolton
NHS Foundation Trust

Customer-at-a-Glance

Bolton NHS Foundation Trust

Industry
Healthcare

Number of Staff
3,500 endpoints

Website
www.boltonft.nhs.uk

Sophos Solutions
Sophos Central

Sophos Advanced Endpoint Protection

Sophos Unified Threat Management

Sophos Advanced Safeguard Disk and File Encryption

Intercept X

Sophos Customer
Since 2012

Bolton NHS Foundation Trust is a major provider of hospital and community health services in the North West Sector of Greater Manchester, delivering services from the Royal Bolton Hospital. It also provides a wide range of community services to 20 care centres across Bolton. The Royal Bolton Hospital is a major hub within Greater Manchester for women and children's services and is the second busiest ambulance-receiving site in Greater Manchester.

Business Challenge

Security is obviously a key concern for Bolton NHS Foundation Trust, from making sure it protects its core infrastructure to keeping safe its existing and new customers and patient records.

In 2016, the IT security team was keen to ensure that it had a comprehensive and highly resilient security strategy in place. To this end, it had an existing partnership with Core to Cloud, a Sophos Gold Partner and specialist in security and compliance. Bolton partnered with Sophos as well as their security software company, using Sophos products for on-premises endpoints, encryption, and gateways. Bolton NHS Foundation Trust is constantly evaluating its security portfolio and was keen to expand its security framework to ensure even greater resilience. It was also looking to implement a cloud security strategy and there were other areas where it felt it could improve its defences. With this in mind, Phil Howe, Infrastructure Manager for Bolton NHS Foundation Trust, reached out to Core to Cloud to discuss their options.

Technology Solution

A meeting was set up with Core to Cloud and Sophos with the aim of white-boarding what the NHS Trust already had in its security estate and looking over how the organization's on-premises security solutions could be improved with additional security and/or replaced with cloud solutions. One of the key drivers in this situation was that the Bolton NHS Foundation Trust felt that new products could be added to its portfolio and there was a desire to move towards a cloud model and to future proof its environment.

 "With attempted attacks becoming an everyday occurrence, there is always more we can be doing and we were looking for recommendations around Sophos Synchronized Security approach," Howe said. "In particular, we were looking at how we could join up our security suite and really enhance what we have."

As an existing customer of Sophos, Bolton NHS Foundation Trust was also looking to expand on the investment it had already made in desktop and gateway solutions as well as looking at best practice cyber security and next-generation techniques.

Led by Bolton's Chief Technology Officer, Brett Walmsley, and working with Sophos/Core to Cloud, Bolton's senior technical team were presented with a proposal covering a wide range of consolidated solutions as well as a cloud strategy and

approach. As a result, the Trust switched to the cloud-based Sophos Central, deploying Intercept X to provide anti-ransomware and anti-exploit technology, as well as deploying Sophos Advanced Endpoint Protection and SafeGuard Advanced Disk and File Encryption. It also renewed its Sophos FullGuard Unified Threat Management solution including Sandstorm.

"We now have additional layers of protection giving us benefits such as when a laptop is infected outside of our organisation and brought back in to the trust, we can already have this blocked from connecting to our infrastructure," Walmsley said.

Business Results

Fast action

After the initial conversations in December 2016, the process moved very quickly and only took a couple of months to fully scope and then deploy.

Technical knowledge and expertise

Bolton NHS Trust really valued the skills and knowledge that both Core to Cloud and Sophos could offer during the improvement process. The trust was keen to put in place a user-centric security strategy, working with users accessing multiple devices, and being able to implement a consistent policy across all of these devices rather than looking at point solutions.

With the General Data Protection Regulation on the horizon, the hospital was keen to ensure that it was adhering to and working towards compliance. The whole Sophos Synchronized Security approach was very attractive in terms of getting the hospital aligned and compliant. Sophos provides a full range of security products, alongside Core to Cloud's understanding of the NHS market and in particular Bolton NHS Trust's needs. Sophos Synchronized Security is a best-of-breed security system where integrated products dynamically share threat, health, and security information. This results in faster, better protection against advanced threats.

"We are still very much in contact with Bolton NHS Foundation Trust to ensure that they remain up to date with any new threats that come through," James Cunningham, sales director at Core to Cloud, said. "As a trusted Sophos partner, we are not only dedicated to our customers ¬– we also seek to drive improvements where we see fit."

Cost effective solutions

Together Core to Cloud and Sophos were able to provide Bolton NHS Foundation Trust with highly competitive pricing, allowing them to offer excellent value for money to their customers.

Tough cyber resilience

"The Sophos cloud based suite has strengthened our cyber resilience and built on our layered security approach which is helping to protect our organisation," said Howe. "Sophos and Core to Cloud are very pro-active and always on hand to help with any of our requests as we are constantly reviewing our security measures."

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