Preventing security attacks on VimpelCom
PJSC VimpelCom was incorporated in 1992 and forms part of VimpelCom Ltd, one of the world’s largest groups of integrated communications operators.

Its companies offer voice and data services to 753 million people worldwide and provide broadband internet access to countries around the globe. The Group’s brands include Beeline, Kievstar, djuice, Wind, Infostrada, Mobilink, Leo, Banglalink, Telecel and Djezzy.

PJSC VimpelCom provides integrated mobile and landline telephony services, international and long-distance calls. It also offers data, telematic services, wireless and fixed-line internet access, WiFi and third-generation (3G) networks. Its customers and partners include individuals, small, medium and large businesses, transnational corporations and other communications operators.

**Challenge**

VimpelCom needs a reliable way to protect its mail servers from malware and spam. The volume of data that passes through the corporate mail network is considerable and the security solution must be able to process this data quickly, without slowing the IT infrastructure.

With a growing number of targeted attacks on major companies, VimpelCom recognised the need to safeguard itself against this type of threat.

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Dmitriy Ustyuzhanin, Head of Information Security at PJSC VimpelCom
The Kaspersky Lab Solution

VimpelCom had been collaborating with Kaspersky Lab for several years, using its products and services for protection against cyber threats. Kaspersky Lab Security 8 for Linux Mail Server (KLMS) ensures the security of the network perimeter.

KLMS features the latest Kaspersky Lab antivirus engine, which ensures effective detection and removal of harmful attachments from incoming email messages. In addition, the cloud-based Kaspersky Lab Security Network (KSN) tracks potential virus threats in real time, protecting VimpelCom computers, even from the very latest malware.

The enforced anti-spam updates service loads the most critical spam-signature updates in real time. It’s thanks to this that the solution responds rapidly to new unsolicited mailings, ensuring protection against ‘zero-hour’ spam. This is an attack that exploits a previously unknown vulnerability in a computer application or operating system. It’s called ‘zero hour’ because programmers have had no time to fix the flaw and damage is instant.

New reputation content filtering also enhances the effectiveness of the battle against spam. Using powerful cloud resources, it dissects the content of an email message into fragments, which are analysed and compared with known examples of spam mailings. This enables the detection of new, unwanted messages and lowers the frequency of false triggering of safeguards.
The new Kaspersky Lab technology prevents increasingly frequent, targeted attacks. Cybercriminals often resort to sending emails with harmful attachments to perform such attacks, including the use of so-called exploits, which use errors in the operating system or applications to infect a computer.

KLMS now includes the innovative technology, ZETA Shield (Zero-day, Exploits and Targeted Attacks Shield), which helps to quickly detect and block emails that contain exploits, including new and previously unknown instances.

Benefits

According to employee feedback, Kaspersky Lab products are coping admirably with the tasks at hand. A reduction in the volume of spam has been recorded in the network; the company is generally better protected and savings are made in administrative resources. The products were all deployed without a hitch and in the event of any difficulties arising in the course of operations, the Kaspersky Lab support desk is available to assist.

Among other things, the installation of KLMS helped prevent a targeted attack on the VimpelCom network. ZetaShield specified a number of messages as suspicious and placed them in quarantine. The attention of Kaspersky Lab analysts was drawn to these messages and they asked the customer to provide them for more in-depth analysis. One of these messages proved to be a typical example of a targeted attack. The letter, apparently related to the company’s business, had an xls file embedded in it, containing an exploit. Thanks to the Kaspersky Lab solution, the threat was detected and removed in good time.

In addition to the purely technical arguments in favour of Kaspersky Lab, the customer also appreciates the fact that Kaspersky Lab has remained innovative and provides effective security solutions to large enterprises, SMEs and individuals alike.

“What is most valuable is that there is a genuinely creative atmosphere everywhere within Kaspersky Lab,” commented Dmitriy Ustyuzhanin, Head of Information Security at VimpelCom. “The employees believe they are the best in the field and are saving the world from all manner of cybercrime. Therefore, when you approach them for assistance, the support specialists process the problem as fast as possible and to the highest possible standard. In addition, the extensive research base ensures that Kaspersky Lab will always be on the frontline in the fight against cyber threats, which is so important in our time.”