

bowbridge Delivers Critical Link in Supply Chain Transaction Security

A large federal agency uses bowbridge Anti-Virus for SAP Solutions to help protect its procurement system from threats.



The Challenge

Federal agencies of all sizes are increasingly modernizing key applications to improve their flexibility and to comply with the U.S. Federal Paperwork Reduction Act. One of the largest U.S. departments recently undertook a large project to improve its ability to manage a complex supply chain that includes thousands of internal employees, client organizations, and external vendors. For the past 20 years, the agency had supported its procurement activities, such as customer ordering, purchase orders, vendor bidding, contracts, awards, shipping, freight, and invoicing, using a collection of proprietary applications. Most had been developed using programming languages such as COBOL. In addition to being time-consuming and costly to update, the department's in-depth knowledge of each application and its programming techniques was being lost as employees retired.

The applications also lacked the ability for external clients and vendors to attach required supporting documentation, such as certifications and commodities tracking information. Finally, the proprietary system was heavily forms-based, requiring staff to manually enter data or scan forms to capture information.

At a Glance

Customer:

Large U.S. Federal Agency
Washington, D.C.

Challenge:

Enable file attachments to support procurement transactions without compromising security or availability of SAP database.

Solution:

bowbridge's Anti-Virus for SAP Solutions

Results:

- Protects SAP system from storing files infected with viruses and malware
- Delivers fast performance to maintain procurement system high availability
- Adds layer of resiliency with cluster failover capabilities



To improve its supply chain management efficiency, the agency selected SAP for integrated supply chain management because it provided maximum out-of-the-box functionality and built-in commercial best practices. SRA International, a company dedicated to solving complex problems of global significance for government organizations, was also chosen to help the agency create an integrated procurement system that supports a common database and design across all of its users, clients, and vendors through a web portal.

The new system also required protection from the threat of viruses and malware associated with incoming file attachments. Network security measures provided robust protection through the agency's firewall, but once attachments were decrypted inside the firewall, additional protection was needed to prevent any potentially malicious file from being stored in the SAP database and from being made accessible to internal or external users.

The Solution

Conventional virus protection is not able to detect and block malicious code embedded in uploaded attachments to ERP systems. To deliver this specialized functionality, SRA recommended the bowbridge Anti-Virus for SAP Solutions. The bowbridge product has been tested and certified by SAP and it operates on the agency's Solaris 64-bit server platform. It also supports several third-part scanning engines, including the agency's existing Symantec solution.

The solution provides intelligent middleware that receives calls from SAP's Virus Scan Application Programming Interface (NW-VSI) and issues instructions for the third-party scanning engine to scan documents before they are uploaded to the SAP database.

"bowbridge provided outstanding functionality for the agency's needs, in addition to high-availability and load-balancing modes for providing the same level of availability as the SAP system itself," said Robert Ortega, technical project manager for SRA. "The bowbridge solution was ideal for our implementation."

The Results

The agency's new SAP system delivers unmatched ease of use and much more flexibility for the agency's users, vendors, and clients. SRA conducted an extensive trial of the bowbridge solution and also requested several high-availability enhancements, such as cluster failover, to meet the agency's unique needs.

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—Roberto Ortega, Technical Project Manager, SRA

"We were very impressed by bowbridge's responsiveness and service during the trial period," said Ortega. "They provided extended trial software and licenses, which made it easier to accommodate the complexity of our client's SAP integration project. The level of support we received was outstanding."

When fully implemented, the new SAP system with the bowbridge Anti-Virus for SAP solutions will enable agency employees, clients, and vendor partners to attach supporting documents to their SAP transactions and have all relevant supporting data immediately accessible. As the agency moves forward, it can improve efficiency with full confidence that its SAP data is protected from malware threats.

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Ministry of Information and Communications Technology

About bowbridge

bowbridge Software is the leader and de-facto standard in providing scalable malware protection for SAP-based applications and systems.

Our products and solutions are proven in the most demanding environments and certified by SAP.

SAP® Certified
Integration with SAP NetWeaver®

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