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*Annette Matthews,  
Head of IS,  
Family Assurance*



**CUSTOMER NAME**

Family Assurance

**INDUSTRY**

Financial

**CHECK POINT PRODUCTS**

Pointsec® Protector™

*Note: Pointsec Mobile Technologies was acquired by Check Point Software Technologies after this story was written*

## Family Assurance uses Pointsec Protector to underpin FAST accreditation

Family Assurance is the UK’s largest tax-exempt friendly society and provides a range of saving bonds and investment products including tax-free saving bonds, Individual Savings Accounts, unit trusts, and children’s saving bonds. A mutual company with over 500,000 members and over £1.5bn (\$2.5 billion) invested, Family Assurance has been keen to meet new challenges and lead from the front with technological advances. John Reeve, Family’s chief executive officer, says, “Our constant investment in new technology provides better administration, allowing us to greatly reduce our costs, even though we already compare favorably with the most efficient insurance companies in Britain.”

**THE CHALLENGE**

Annette Matthews, Family’s head of IS, comments “Family Assurance Friendly Society as an organization is committed to providing a safe environment for all employees and protecting corporate assets.”

With large numbers of staff, there are always risks associated with data and corporate network integrity. The need was there to take the appropriate steps to protect employees and the company from the potential problems posed by unmanaged user access: either moving sensitive data via removable media or introducing virus-infected, untested, or unlicensed software by any means.

With the threats identified, the Family Assurance team wanted to take a proactive stance and use a sophisticated technology solution to ensure that the company did all that it could to promote good practice through accreditation from the Federation Against Software Theft (FAST), a UK organization that promotes the legal use of software. FAST accreditation indicates software compliance and reduces virus risks.



www.family.co.uk



## THE SOLUTION

Pointsec® Protector™ offered the granularity and layered approach that Family Assurance required. With the ability to scan all incoming media for viruses and ensure it is non-malicious data only, this avenue of vulnerability would be immediately blocked. Scanned media would then be signed on as authorized for use within an organization's network. As soon as any changes are made outside the network, the media would be automatically marked as unauthorized and require rescanning.

*"It has addressed many risks but additionally ensures that our practices relating to the holding, use, and disclosure of data are always in accordance with our data protection notifications."*

*Annette Matthews, Head of IS, Family Assurance*

On the desktop itself, Pointsec Protector prevents the creation, modification, or deletion of any defined file types. There can be no unauthorized additions to a hard drive from any source—from .exe to .mp3. The list is fully configurable.

Individual or group profiles give the ability to centrally manage, monitor, log, audit, and alert attempted security breaches in any number of different ways, allowing for a truly flexible approach to company-wide security.

Having seen Pointsec Protector in action, Family Assurance moved to roll it out among its corporate PCs.

## THE RESULTS

Matthews states, "Pointsec Protector makes it difficult for staff to compromise security. It does this by declining to load software or data or copying the same to any media at the PC ahead of the media being scanned and tagged as safe against viruses and infection."

She concludes, "Pointsec Protector was installed to support our strategic security aims and to safeguard our position in achieving FAST accreditation in 2003. It has played a part in ensuring that our systems are kept safe and continue to operate efficiently. It has addressed many risks but additionally ensures that our practices relating to the holding, use, and disclosure of data are always in accordance with our data protection notifications. Alongside this, it underpins software compliance and reduces risks against virus infection."

## CONTACT CHECK POINT

### Worldwide Headquarters

5 Ha'Solelim Street, Tel Aviv 67897, Israel | Tel: 972-3-753-4555 | Fax: 972-3-624-1100 | Email: info@checkpoint.com

### U.S. Headquarters

800 Bridge Parkway, Redwood City, CA 94065 | Tel: 800-429-4391; 650-628-2000 | Fax: 650-654-4233 | www.checkpoint.com