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*Andy White,  
Network Development Manager,  
Redditch Borough Council*



## CUSTOMER NAME

Redditch Borough Council

## INDUSTRY

Local Government

## CHECK POINT PRODUCTS

Pointsec® Protector™

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

# Redditch Borough Council’s virus epidemic cured

Redditch Borough Council delivers a wide array of vital services in the town of Redditch, Worcestershire, United Kingdom, and its outlying areas. The council works to deliver a full range of local services for the benefit of around 79,000 residents and the many others who work in the area. The council employs some 1,100 people to deliver these services.

## THE CHALLENGE

In the mid-to-late 90s, the spread of boot sector viruses via infected floppy disks was by far the biggest security problem facing businesses. This was a time before companies had embraced the Internet to any great degree, and floppy disks were the simplest and quickest method of transferring information.

The IT department of the Redditch Borough Council identified that a major virus threat to its network was being caused by users introducing floppy disks onto their work PCs, which they had been using at home. A solution was needed that would manage the introduction of foreign media and control the installation of software and new files on every council PC.

Prior to adopting Check Point data security, the council relied on an antivirus package deployed on a small number of machines. However, the antivirus solution failed to provide complete security, and the associated costs of protecting the network from unauthorized software installations and viruses proved to be beyond the scope of available budgets.

Redditch Borough Council was looking for a product that could prevent the transfer of viruses via floppy disks and ensure the network remained available and secure. Its ambition was to find an all-in-one solution capable of maintaining data integrity as well as guarding against the introduction of malicious code and unlicensed software programs.



[www.redditch.whub.org.uk](http://www.redditch.whub.org.uk)



## THE SOLUTION

Pointsec® Protector™ was tested against a variety of competitive products as the IT department searched for a solution to the security problem facing them. The Pointsec Protector ease of installation, comprehensiveness, and competitive pricing made the product stand out as the best possible solution. Pointsec Protector provided Redditch Borough Council with a solution that could control the introduction of floppy disks and, in the years following, removable media devices onto the network.

*“Users can no longer connect USB devices, memory sticks, digital cameras, or PDAs to their PCs and risk introducing malicious code onto the network. Pointsec Protector is the perfect solution for managing this problem.”*

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Pointsec Protector provided a policy-driven mechanism with which the council could secure its information and ensure the integrity of its data, providing unrivaled endpoint security over the use of USB and other memory devices. The introduction of the Check Point product allowed system administrators to take control of the network, managing removable media either by denying all access, providing read-only access, allowing full authorized access, or enforcing encrypted-only access.

“Pointsec Protector provides a cost-effective, configurable environment that allows us to centrally control client PC profiles with ease,” says Andy White, network development manager with Redditch Borough Council. “There simply isn’t another product on the market that offers the same level of security and manageability as Pointsec Protector.”



*The council works to deliver a full range of local services for the benefit of around 79,000 residents and many others who work in the area of Redditch, UK.*

## THE RESULTS

Pointsec Protector has provided a comprehensive level of security to Redditch Borough Council, successfully preventing the use of unapproved removable media and unlicensed software while stopping viruses and other malware from affecting its network.

White commented, “The Pointsec Protector product has kept our network secure for a number of years. The use of floppy disks and, in subsequent years, removable media devices to transfer information has always been a problem, and Pointsec Protector has given us a means of controlling rogue devices. Users can no longer connect USB devices, memory sticks, digital cameras, or PDAs to their PCs and risk introducing malicious code onto the network. Pointsec Protector is the perfect solution for managing this problem, and we have found the support and dedication of the Check Point team to be outstanding, offering us the comprehensive technical support we require.”

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