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RURAL MEDIA CHARITY

🏢 **Industry:** Charity / Media Education and Film Production

🛠 **HS Services Used:** 365 Total Protection

👥 **Company Size:** Small - 30 employees

📍 **Location:** Hereford, UK

🌐 **Website:** www.ruralmedia.co.uk

Rural Media is a Hereford-based production company and charity in the UK that produces award-winning films and digital arts projects. Founded 30 years ago by CEO Nic Millington, the organization has a reputation for telling powerful stories from unheard voices and nurturing creative talent.

Rural Media Charity collaborates with communities, schools, groups, and individuals to create issue-driven films, heritage, and digital arts projects that raise awareness, influence change, and celebrate rural life. Rural Studios, the sister company of Rural Media Charity, produces content for national broadcasters, online platforms, and social media for charities and businesses of all sizes. Income from production is reinvested into the charity to ensure media participation and production continue to thrive in Herefordshire and beyond.

A NEED TO MANAGE EMAIL SECURITY AND SHARING PERMISSIONS

Melanie Page, Data and Office Manager at Rural Media, explained that the company initially had an on-premise firewall with Active Directory, that only provided anti-spam and antivirus protection. They lacked traceability of emails, a management console, and a permission reporter. Sharing was limited to email with no control over it. When Rural Media migrated from an on-premise server to Microsoft 365, including email, SharePoint, and One-Drive, this triggered the need for enhanced security solutions.

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Their trusted **IT provider, Tate Computer Technology**, recommended Hornetsecurity to them because, as a robust, all-in-one cybersecurity solution, it enables them to avoid working with multiple providers to benefit from comprehensive security, while providing them with a single view of their systems security.

HOW TO SECURELY FOSTER CONTENT CREATION COLLABORATION

Ms Page explained that management was concerned about the risks presented by allowing the company-wide team to directly share files with people outside their organisation. Because Rural Media is a registered charity, they have various regulations to comply with, especially regarding data management.
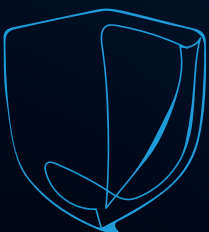
For greater productivity and innovation, it was critical for them to ensure the team would have more flexibility to create new content and work with third parties, while at the same time giving the management team control over the files in SharePoint that were being shared. From a system management perspective, they also wished to have a single and simple dashboard that was shared with Tate.

Andy Truelove, Lead Engineer and co-owner of Tate, had already worked with Hornetsecurity's email security products. The quality, ease of use and ease of implementation that characterized these solutions were key factors that led his team to recommend Hornetsecurity's 365 Total Protection and 365 Permission Manager to Rural Media Charity.

MULTIPLE SOLUTIONS, ONE SINGLE CONTROL PANEL

Rural Media was implementing Microsoft 365 email, SharePoint and OneDrive, which meant they needed multiple cybersecurity products in place. Hornetsecurity has the best solution with a single plan that aggregates email security, backup, security awareness, access and permission control, and domain fraud protection.

Hornetsecurity's solutions automatically filter out spam, reducing email traffic and allowing/blocking senders from the portal. By being accessible via one central console panel, they provide instant visibility on all activity across Microsoft 365.

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Assessing the impact of Hornetsecurity solutions on Rural Media's operations, Ms Page made a few observations, Among them:

365 🛡 TOTAL PROTECTION

Impact on Security:

The security of email communications and data has significantly improved. Initially, regular email addresses were blocked, but the system adapted over time with monitoring from Tate Technology.

Stopping Threats:

The link detector system has been particularly effective in capturing phishing emails. Users can now whitelist emails and release quarantined emails themselves, reducing the need for IT support.

Archiving Feature:

With 10 years of searchable email archives, Rural Media can easily prove their records and maintain data integrity, crucial for compliance as a charity.

365 PERMISSION MANAGER

Impact on Data Management:

The introduction of 365 Permission Manager has streamlined data management, making it more controlled and efficient.

Compliance Contribution:

The tool helps meet tighter compliance requirements due to the charity's status.

Addressed Headaches:

It provides control over who is sharing what, with whom, through live reports, making management easier.

SIMPLIFIED DAILY MANAGEMENT OF POSSIBLE THREATS

Melanie Page said that the product's weekly reports on suspicious activity and the ability to rectify issues in the portal have been beneficial. She views it as one gatekeeper that manages the system, simplifying daily operations.

Mr Truelove highlighted the big improvement in terms of the identification of phishing emails. Another big plus for his IT services company is the ability for Rural Media users to whitelist their emails and to manage this themselves without having to contact Tate to release an email that was potentially flagged as spam.

OUT OF THE BOX SOLUTION, CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

To him, the experience around the implementation and migration of the email security solution confirmed that they choose the best provider.

"Onboarding is pretty straightforward, it just works out the box," he said, confirming that the experience was seamless.

He also praised Hornetsecurity's accessible and helpful support team. This team also helped Rural Media set up their DMARC and DKIM.

VISIBILITY, EASE TO MANAGE AND COLLABORATION WITH COMPLIANCE

With Hornetsecurity 365 Total Protection and 365 Permission Manager, Rural Media, with the support of Tate Technology, is successfully protecting their newly Microsoft 365 Cloud environment.

The single view in Control Panel across all Hornetsecurity products reduces the complexity of managing the different aspects of a media and charity organisation. The backup and DMARC solutions that form part of Hornetsecurity's portfolio helps them meet their compliance requirements.

Rural Media is now able to safely collaborate with their external stakeholders to continuously produce content that will make a difference for their communities.