

# Universidad Autónoma de Coahuila

## Email Security Solution

“NEARLY EVERY FACET OF THE OLD OPEN-SOURCE EMAIL SYSTEM HAD TO BE MANUALLY ADMINISTERED. MIGRATING TO RAZORGATE ALLOWED US TO SET IT AND FORGET IT.”

*Eutiquio Canales, IT Services Coordinator, Universidad Autónoma de Coahuila*

CASE STUDY | EDUCATION



### BUSINESS NEED

Effective, manageable solution for controlling spam and viruses to secure 5000 staff

### SOLUTION

Mirapoint RazorGate 100 Email Security Appliance

### BOTTOM LINE

Superior performance, high catch rates, and simplified management

### Background

The Universidad Autónoma de Coahuila ([www.uadec.mx](http://www.uadec.mx)), one of the largest educational institutions in Northern Mexico, serves over 35,000 students with nearly 5,000 faculty and staff. Technology, and in particular, email, has become an important element in the day-to-day operation of the university.

### The Business Need

The university's email system supporting faculty and staff consisted of Sendmail, open-source software, running on general-purpose servers that had grown and evolved over time. Increasing message traffic, combined with an explosion of spam and the ongoing threat of viruses was stretching the system, and the IT staff, to their limits, with no external support to turn to.

A decision was made to replace the struggling email system with Oracle Mail. However, that would not address the substantial issues of spam and viruses. The legacy system's catch-rate for spam was very low, causing many users to waste valuable time each day sorting through and deleting spam and exposure of downtime. Real-time blackhole lists (RBLs), the primary defense against spam, had to be updated nearly every day, which diverted IT staff away from other important tasks. When spam attacks occurred, they often brought the messaging system down. Custom applications had to be created to monitor the servers and notify IT staff of a denial of service attack or system failure. And, because the home-grown system was assembled from open-source software, there was no external support available. According to Eutiquio Canales, IT Services Coordinator, “We were forced to concentrate significant IT specialist resources on developing and deploying applications to secure the messaging system.”

Installing a new email system would not alleviate the spam and virus problem, so UAdeC began the search for an effective anti-spam and virus solution.



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## The Mirapoint Solution

In selecting a solution, UAdeC was looking for a product that was robust and secure with proven capabilities to provide high catch rates for protection from spam, viruses, and hacker attacks. Automatic update was also an important feature to simplify ongoing management of the system.

After evaluating a number of products, including some software-based solutions, none met the university's requirements. Then they looked at the Mirapoint RazorGate email security appliance. Virmar Comunicación Empresarial, a Mirapoint gold partner since 2004, located in Monterrey, Mexico, installed a RazorGate 100 appliance in front of the Sendmail system as a trial. "The results were immediate," says Canales. "Overall message traffic decreased and email server load was lower because spam was being diverted before reaching the message server. As a result, there was no interruption of service, which had become so common."

RazorGate delivers unparalleled multi-layered protection from spam, virus, and hacker attacks. It provides real-time updates to reduce the window of vulnerability resulting in airtight security at the edge of the network.

Mirapoint's multi-layered security starts with MailHurdle connection management technology, which drops up to 80 percent of spam at the edge before network bandwidth, storage, processor, and administration resources are spent. When combined with Mirapoint's RAPID Anti-Spam technology, overall catch-rates upwards of 98 percent are achieved. The RAPID Anti-Spam technology is able to detect spam outbreaks in any language or message format as they emerge providing up-to-the-minute protection.

To protect against viruses that propagate quickly across the Internet, the RazorGate 100 combines a traditional signature-based virus engine with Mirapoint's RAPID Anti-Virus engine to offer zero hour protection. Viruses are identified within two minutes of an outbreak, providing the most comprehensive protection available. In comparison, signature-based approaches alone often take up to 24 hours to get updated before they start protecting an organization's network from attack, which is often too late to affect the initial peak in message volumes associated with an emerging virus propagating.

Within three weeks of installing the demo appliance, the University had complete confidence that Mirapoint RazorGate was the right solution. The appliance was formally deployed in early June 2006, filtering both inbound and outbound emails, as well as spam and viruses for the entire administrative staff of 5000 email users.

## The Bottom Line

UAdeC is pleased with the performance and the high catch rates of the Mirapoint RazorGate appliance. Since initial deployment, the email security appliance has performed flawlessly with no downtime. And once the anti-spam and anti-spam features were configured, the solution required very little management. "Nearly every facet of the old open-source email system had to be manually administered," says Canales. "Migrating to RazorGate allowed us to set it and forget it."

## About Mirapoint

Mirapoint® is the market leader in appliance-based solutions for secure message networks in enterprise, service provider, and education organizations, with more than 150 million mailboxes served and secured worldwide. Customers use Mirapoint appliances including the Message Server mail appliance and RazorGate mail security appliance to build the messaging infrastructure that intelligently serves, secures and manages email. Mirapoint is headquartered in Sunnyvale, California, with offices throughout North America, Europe and Asia. For more information on Mirapoint, visit its Website at [www.mirapoint.com](http://www.mirapoint.com).

## Configuration

- Mirapoint RazorGate 100 Email Security Appliance



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