

# PRODUCT REVIEW

## MailFrontier Gateway Appliance m500

**Summary:** Setup was easy using a web browser interface and took less than an hour to complete. It really blocks all unwanted email.

**Estimated Price:** \$35,000

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You would think that with federal regulations enacted in the last several years regarding email spam, it would slow down these internet intruders. Unfortunately this is not the case. Your company is faced with keeping email internal, hoping that a software-based solution will keep these cur-mudgeons out of the office. Or you look for another solution.

We recently had the opportunity to test the MailFrontier, Incorporated's solution to email spam and virus protection with MailFrontier Gateway Appliance m500. This appliance has a basic price of \$35,000 which might limit it to medium to large businesses. Easy to set up and use, we found the m500 was reasonably priced when you consider the company hours saved by effective spam filtering. We are awarding this appliance with our Editor's Choice Award for value and effectiveness.

The m500 runs under a hardened and optimized version of the Microsoft Windows 2003 Server operating system. The hardened version restricts ports and services that aren't necessary for the system's operation.

This 1U unit contains a Pentium-4 3GHz processor, 512K Level 2 cache, 1GB RAM, two mirrored 80GB hard drives and connectivity for either 100-BaseT or 1000-BaseT Ethernet connections. The m500 has the capacity to process 50,000 email

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messages per hour and is limited to 5,000 email accounts.

MailFrontier boasts of their Cognite technology and according to the company, it provides an email evaluation system that combines the most effective anti-spam forensics with anti-phishing detection. Antivirus protection is provided by MailFrontier's Time-Zero Virus Technology and will work in conjunction with other virus software like McAfee as an additional option.

Our setup of this unit was rather simple. It took less than an hour to install into our email system and using the web browser-based interface to configure it for our testing purposes. Our workstations used the MailFrontier Desktop for Outlook or Outlook Express. There are additional plug-ins that are downloadable for Outlook and Lotus Notes.

We intentionally tried to spoof the MailFrontier Gateway Appliance m500 with several sets of both spam and mild virus emails. Each attempt was caught by the m500 resulting in 100% accuracy. We saw no false positives with our testing of legitimate email. Administrators have the ability to set levels to filter out emails that

contain offensive language, gambling, sexual subject matters and even advertisements.

Our overall perception of this appliance is positive for medium to large businesses. Enterprise operations may wish to consider the m1000. Smaller business (100 users or less) might want to investigate the MailFrontier Small Business Edition server software that contains much of the technology used in the appliance products.

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For more information, please visit [www.mailfrontier.com](http://www.mailfrontier.com)

