Fast, light and elegantly engineered...

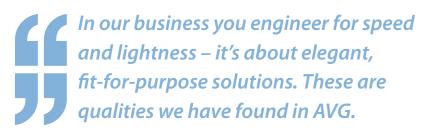## ...and thats just the protection software.

The Situation:

Formula 1 is an unforgiving business – there's simply no room for error, waste or inefficiency.

Force India had found that their existing protection software was too heavy on resources, too management-intensive and too expensive. To add insult to injury viruses were still getting through.

The small IT team, whose time, talent and budget was needed for more 'mission-critical' tasks, simply had to find a solution that would deliver all the protection they needed, but without delays, distractions or interruptions..

> " *In our business you engineer for speed and lightness – it's about elegant, fit-for-purpose solutions. These are qualities we have found in AVG.*
>
> Adrian Collinson, Head of IT, Force India.

CUSTOMER

Company: Force India Formula 1

Sector: Motorsport

Country: UK

Employees: 280

Website: www.forceindiaf1.com

AVG Solution: AVG Internet Security Business Edition 450 licence, 3 year contract

PROFILE

Force India is rising rapidly through the Formula 1 ranks. With over 280 people and almost 500 PCs across two fixed and one mobile sites, the security and efficiency of their protection directly impacts on competitive performance.

THE CHALLENGE

How to deliver comprehensive, advanced protection without interrupting, delaying or compromising 'mission-critical' operations.

THE SOLUTION

Force India benchmarked the major internet security brands against the incumbent vendor. AVG software not only discovered viruses the existing protection had let through, it also demanded far less of system resources, less management and eliminated the frustrations and delays previously experienced.

THE BENEFITS

Faster, smoother running PCs deliver the real-time car monitoring Force India needs. More threats are discovered and blocked and disruptions to operations are minimized, meaning the IT team is freed to concentrate on more strategically important tasks. All delivered with substantial cost-savings.

MOTORSPORT

The Need:

Force India operates in an industry in which any technological edge must be fiercely safeguarded. With staff continuously moving between competing teams, and industrial espionage a very real threat, IT security systems and policies have to be watertight. Head of IT, Adrian Collinson, explains "In F1 the only policy one can adopt is to trust no one; that's why we ensure that any route through which data can be extracted is fully covered with the highest level of protection".

However critical security may be, it cannot compromise operations. "Engine and chassis telemetry has to be monitored in real time" explains Collinson, "If the engineers cannot see that the engine is operating within very strict parameters it simply can't race, and that's that. In that sense, the performance of the team is only as good as the performance of the computers on the day".

"Before moving to AVG, we were using one of the major brands. Quite apart from the complexity of setting it up, the overhead it demanded was way beyond what it was delivering in terms of security. We were getting viruses creeping through and paying top dollar for the privilege."

But it was not just trackside performance that was being compromised.

"In our test facility at Brackley the computers that run the wind-tunnel would simply stop when a major update came through for the old software. We would have to fit our schedule around the updates, rather than the other way round. This mission-critical example illustrates the general problem with over-engineered software. When you only have a team of six, spending a disproportionate amount of time maintaining and managing the security software, is just bad IT policy".

Adrian and his team reviewed alternative vendors for quality of protection, lightness of resources and speed and size of updates.

The Solution:

Collinson and his team trialled AVG on a number of PCs. "AVG immediately started finding malware and viruses that our previous protection software had missed. It was also much lighter on system resources. The obvious question was 'why are we paying for inferior protection that slows us down and costs us more? The decision to switch to AVG was a no-brainer'".

"It strikes me that too many software protection products are loaded with 'bloatware' and it just slows you down. They seem to forget what you want your PC to do – not what they want it to do.

In our business you engineer for speed and lightness – it's about elegant, fit-for-purpose solutions. These are qualities we have found mirrored in the way AVG has built its protection".

The Experience:

Adrian and his team found the AVG rollout a painless experience. As Collinson explains, "The hardest part was going around and having to remove the incumbent from each of the machines; it seemed reluctant to uninstall."

Collinson also found a marked difference in the quality and level of support the team received from AVG: "We tended to avoid the support team of our previous provider - you either didn't get answer, or you didn't get it in time".

Force India no longer has to schedule its wind tunnel testing around updates "They're now so quick and transparent to the end user that they simply indicate that it's time for a coffee break rather than a major disruption". The trackside operations are also enhanced with the real-time monitoring of engines and chassis uninterrupted by security software.

Being lighter, faster and simpler to manage has freed the IT team to get on with more business-critical issues. But is there any downside? "Yes," Collinson explains, "Now that everyone has experienced how much more efficient AVG is at work, we've been inundated by colleagues wanting us to uninstall their existing software on their private home laptops and install AVG for them."

Why AVG?

- 110 million business and home users worldwide

- 1 million more users every month

- Trusted by the world's most demanding businesses

- Comprehensive business protection – file server, email server, workstation

- Multi-award winning performance

- Engineered for no-compromise protection that is easy to live with

- Unique LinkScanner® technology delivers real-time protection

- Comprehensive support and service.