

As we expected, we're seeing a slight convergence between overall endpoint protection features and encryption solutions, says **Nathan Ouellette**.

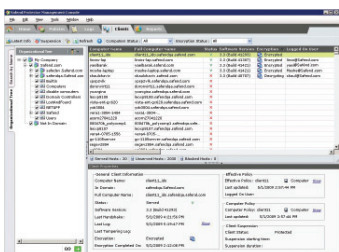
The market for encryption products seems to be expanding. The list of states which mandate data breach disclosures is growing exponentially. This influence has surfaced in many of the encryption products that we see. The trend this year indicates that protection is spreading to different

operating systems and devices other than Windows-based systems.

We're seeing a convergence between overall endpoint protection features and encryption solutions. Suites of products are still offering the standard features – such as whole disk encryption, protection for partitions, and encryption of

removable media. We're also seeing a trend to either allow or deny access to devices based on certain rules and criteria. Even if the software does not have the ability to encrypt an external device, it may have granular controls and rule sets on how to treat the device if it's connected to the host machine.

Data Protection Suite



Vendor Safend
Price \$29 to \$69 per seat
Contact www.safend.com

The Safend Data Protection Suite is an encryption (and endpoint protection) software solution that consists of a centralized management console, which runs on IIS and .NET, a Microsoft SQL Server backend, and client software components.

The software does not provide whole disk encryption (pre-boot authentication for the whole disk), but focuses more on protecting confidential data by encrypting everything that is not a system or program file.

The management console was installed on our Windows Server 2003 platform and was one of the most straightforward products to

install and configure. The initial installation allows the administrator to start importing objects from Active Directory (or Novell's eDirectory), including users, groups and computers. Safend also includes messages at various times during setup to help guide and remind users that certain activities are important. This was a very nice touch during our configuration.

Policies are very easy to create, and several default compliance-based policies (*HIPAA*, *SOX*, etc.) are included out-of-the-box. Granular whitelists or blacklists can be created, allowing an organization to block or allow wireless access points, USB ports, optical drives and access to specific file types. Policy is then pushed to clients with the click of a button, or is sent automatically every 90 minutes. Furthermore, the console offers in-depth reporting and logging capabilities. The information included in the reports and logs are very detailed and will satisfy even the most demanding reporting requirements. All in all, the product has an excellent set of centrally managed features.

The PDF documentation was

impressive. The screen shots are detailed, and important notes about setup and administrative tasks are highlighted.

Basic no-cost eight hours a day/ five days a week phone and email support is available for the first year. Additional support tiers are available. Although the tool does not provide whole disk encryption, for organizations looking to centrally manage the encryption of certain folders and confidential data the price point makes it an excellent choice.

SC MAGAZINE RATING

Features	★★★★★
Performance	★★★★★
Ease of use	★★★★★
Documentation	★★★★★
Support	★★★★★
Value for money	★★★★★

OVERALL RATING ★★★★★

Strengths Very easy to manage the vast number of protection options available.
Weaknesses No whole disk encryption, which may or may not be a weakness.
Verdict Excellent product at a great price point.



Very easy to manage the vast number of protection options available.

Nathan Ouellette

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