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To: Chair and Members of General Committee	Meeting date: November 3, 2021
From: Shari Lichterman, CPA, CMA, Commissioner of Corporate Services and Chief Financial Officer	

Subject

City Standard Recommendation for McAfee Security Products

Recommendation

That McAfee security products be approved as a City Standard for a period of ten (10) years in accordance with the City's Purchasing By-law 374-06, as amended.

Background

Ensuring the City's corporate data and infrastructure is securely protected is the most critical function of the Information Technology Division. Ransomware and malware are constantly evolving and "zero-day" attacks and exploits are increasingly becoming more of a threat. Over the years, McAfee security products have evolved from basic desktop solutions to enterprise-level protection for malware, spyware and ransomware protection for infrastructure end-point devices and data both on-premises and in the cloud. The City leverages the McAfee MVision suite, which allows for greater insights into all forms of attacks ensuring protection to the City's infrastructure and corporate data. McAfee has been designated an IT City Standard for 2021 (ref. GC-0369-2020).

The McAfee MVision suite contains a number of applications and features providing proactive monitoring by collecting telemetry data to provide real-time visibility and alerting the City's Cybersecurity Team to quickly respond to advanced threats and exploits. MVision provides centralized control, monitoring, and governance and has advanced features for threat detection, review, understanding, and response. Also included within the MVision suite is mobile device protection. Mobile device security allows the City to detect security threats to any mobile devices as well as providing visibility to the source of attack providing information to better protect the City from any further spread.

The City also leverages additional McAfee security products to monitor emails for any known Malware/Ransomware signatures and employs Rogue System Detection (RSD) allowing detection of any rogue systems on the City's network that are currently not being managed by internal systems. This provides the ability to review all the devices and deploy McAfee protection where required ensuring protection across the infrastructure landscape.

Comments

Over the years of use at the City, McAfee security protection has a proven record and is recognized as an industry leader in the Gartner Magic Quadrant for virus detection/mitigation, malware, and ransomware. McAfee security protection solutions support all major operating systems, applications, and databases on site or in the cloud in use at the City. The Gartner Magic quadrant assesses the innovations that allow organizations to protect their end-points from attacks and breaches. Technologies and practices in this space are being shaped by two industry trends: the continued growth and stealth of end-point attacks and the sudden surge in remote working. Currently, the City has a contract in place with ISA Cybersecurity Inc., a reseller for McAfee MVision subscription licences that are expiring in April 2022.

McAfee security products has been used in the City for antivirus protection for over twenty-two (22) years and it has been proven to be reliable and very effective in protecting City infrastructure. There are approximately 5,700 end-points that are managed by McAfee ePolicy Orchestrator (ePO) ranging from Library Public Computers, City Staff Workstations & Notebooks and Servers both on-premises and in the cloud.

The cost and effort of moving to a different solution would require substantial time and effort to execute, which could result in little to no gain and could create potential risk during transition. Maintaining uptime, the City's reputation and business continuity is a top priority for the City and protecting devices and corporate data is critically important. McAfee products include the latest technologies ensuring protection on City devices and ensuring data is not compromised. IT support staff have a considerable investment and expertise with McAfee related security software tools and systems. A significant investment in labour costs for the configuration of custom rules and exceptions on approximately 1,050 servers and 4,700 workstations, rogue detection of any device added to City networks as well as custom configuration for ransomware detection, alerting and response. The cost and effort to move to another solution would require significant re-training, consulting services and possible interruption in services that would not be feasible. The efficiency of being able to detect and immediately act on a malware alert is imperative and any time lost reacting to this could be detrimental to the City data and reputation.

Antivirus, malware, spyware and ransomware are increasing at a rate of alarm, methods to which this cyber community is attacking are increasing, as is the number of cases reported. Public cloud is a rapidly growing technology, attack vectors are increasing to the infrastructure, platforms and software and it is becoming increasingly more difficult to secure and protect

against these malicious cyber attacks with end-point security protection alone. The City must augment with additional peripheral protection to continue to keep up with intrusion protection practices. McAfee security solutions provide protection for data both on premise and in the cloud supporting the City Cyber Security team's requirements.

In order to efficiently maximize security protection, mitigate exposure to threats and maintain City security posture for business continuity, it is recommended that the City continue use of McAfee MVision and augment it with additional McAfee security products and services as required over the next ten (10) years, to keep the infrastructure current, safe and free of threats, viruses and ransomware. A competitive procurement process through value added resellers will ensure that the best pricing is obtained.

Purchasing By-law Authorization

The recommendation in this report is being made so as to designate a City Standard per Section 1 (11) in the Purchasing By-law 374-06.

Financial Impact

There are no financial impacts resulting from the Recommendations in this report. All purchases of McAfee security products and services will be subject to budget approval.

Conclusion

This report recommends that McAfee security products be designated as a City Standard for a period of ten (10) years in accordance with the City's Purchasing By-law 374-06, as amended.



Shari Lichterman, CPA, CMA, Commissioner of Corporate Services and Chief Financial Officer

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