

CASE STUDY:  
HAAS F1 TEAM



## Nominet NTXsecure and Haas F1 Team - the perfect fit



In the fast-moving world of F1, where teams fight for every millisecond, cyber security is of paramount importance. Both intellectual property and telemetry data are invaluable while a team must protect financial and personal details too – its own and that of its partners.

The Rich Energy Haas F1 Team faces some unique challenges in keeping data and systems safe from cyber threats, as well as the wider threats faced by many other businesses. Having already made significant efforts to protect the business, Haas F1 recently added Nominet's NTXsecure cyber security service to its security stack. Why?



### The Challenge

The Rich Energy Haas F1 Team is radically different to other Formula 1 teams. Set up by owner Gene Haas and Team Principal Guenther Steiner, the approach was to have a small core team and outsource as many services as possible.

This model means multiple, global locations, both in-house and those of partners, sharing massive amounts of data. The race team and support staff also set up new operations in different countries almost every week, either for testing or races.

The challenge, as Chief Information Officer Gary Foote said, is that the team has pockets of staff located around the globe.



### Haas F1 Team cyber security requirements:

- Complementary to existing security stack
- DNS protection
- Guard against data theft
- Handle multiple, global locations – often temporary
- Ability to keep up with threat landscape
- Instant protection for temporary locations
- Managed service to fit business model
- Unobtrusive to enable agile working and BAU
- Protects any device on network (BYOD)

"We have aerodynamicists based in Italy that are getting data from a high-performance cluster based in Banbury that is run by computational fluid dynamics (CFD) engineers in the US. Cyber security is incredibly important for us in securing that data in transit."

The team also wants staff to connect their own devices as well as company assets, to foster fast moving, agile working practices. There's no room for a cyber security solution that would get in the way of business as usual in the Haas F1 environment.

### Protecting DNS

"One of the areas that we identified as a weakness was DNS, a very trusted traffic type," Gary said. "When we looked at Nominet and the products they have, we realised that they're tackling an area of our network traffic that is potentially trusted by our existing layers of security."

Gary wanted to add that DNS security in a way that didn't get in the way of business as usual or digital transformation.

"This is a service that's complementary to our other cyber security solutions, it doesn't replace any of them. The benefit it brings to Haas F1 is an additional layer onto our security platform. By adding layers and keeping up with the technology we're making sure that we're always one step ahead of the threats."

### Hands-off protection

The availability of NTXsecure as a managed service also fitted the Haas F1 business model perfectly.

"Part of the Haas business model is that we outsource expertise and the engineers at Nominet are experts in their field," he explained. "They're able to look at the data that's coming from our network through their platform, and provide us with results that we can understand."

### Machine learning and prediction

Gary sees cyber security as a never-ending game of cat and mouse.

"Machine learning and deep packet inspection is why we chose Nominet's NTX," he explained.

Nominet's constant in-house R&D, unique algorithms and machine learning enable NTX to predict, detect and block cyber threats – both known and unknown.

## Immediate impact

The solution proved easy to install and introduced little to no network latency. In fact, the team found that NTX highlighted a couple of areas where network configuration could be improved for better performance and protection.

### Key NTX benefits:

- Eliminate network threats before they cause harm
- Prevent damage from phishing and malware
- Stop data theft via DNS tunnelling
- Proven & trusted cyber security services
- Understand normal network behaviours and identify any abnormal trends
- Threat hunting & forensics
- Easy deployment & integration

"We were pleasantly surprised by the results of only a month or so of NTX operation and it clearly vindicated our decision to add DNS-based protection to the heart of our network", Gary said.

One of the key benefits was that NTX spotted threats on personal devices, those over which Gary has less corporate governance.

"NTXsecure found vulnerabilities that we weren't aware of, and evidence of malware that had managed to get on to some personal devices. It's already proved its value to us."



To find out more on how NTX could support your digital transformation efforts, get in touch today.

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