

# Fort Walton Machining tools up against ransomware

Malwarebytes helps protect uptime with a layer of assurance

## INDUSTRY

Manufacturing

## BUSINESS CHALLENGE

Eliminate downtime related to malware and ransomware

## IT ENVIRONMENT

Microsoft System Center Endpoint Protection, layered enterprise security

## SOLUTION


Malwarebytes Endpoint Security

## RESULTS

- Prevented recurrence of ransomware and minimized malware alerts
- Gained another layer of security to help meet NIST requirements
- Increased uptime by removing ransomware and malware

## Business profile

Fort Walton Machining provides technical, precision machining and manufacturing services to military and commercial customers. Based in Fort Walton Beach, Florida, the company's manufacturing division is committed to delivering custom products with zero defects. Its metal finishing division provides paint and chemical finishes to custom metal products. To protect the company's manufacturing uptime and meet compliance requirements, Fort Walton Machining chose Malwarebytes for an added layer of protection.



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—Joe Spradlin, IT Manager, Fort Walton Machining

## Business challenge

Looking for zero infections

In the past few years, Fort Walton Machining has grown from a small manufacturing plant with just a few computers to an international services company with large customers around the globe. During that time, cyberthreats have grown, multiplied, and morphed into significant, business-affecting problems. When Joe Spradlin, IT Manager for Fort Walton Machining, returned to the company in 2011 after serving in Afghanistan and Iraq, he encountered a radically different cybersecurity landscape.

Viruses, Trojans, spyware, fake antiviruses, and other types of advanced malware were causing server downtime and infecting endpoints. When the company refreshed its IT infrastructure, it added Microsoft Data Center Edition and Microsoft Systems Center Operations Manager, which provided built-in endpoint protection.



“At the time, I thought that was enough protection,” said Spradlin. “It was not. One of our staff computers became infected with a drive-by ransomware attack, which encrypted a number of server files. I was able to restore everything, but it was a huge eye-opener for us.”

## The solution

### Malwarebytes Endpoint Security

Spradlin had used Malwarebytes in the past and knew how it performed. The day after the ransomware attack, he was on the phone with Malwarebytes, and within a week, Fort Walton Machining purchased Malwarebytes Endpoint Security. Today, Malwarebytes protects all of the company’s desktops and laptops.

“Malwarebytes Endpoint Security delivers tremendous value,” said Spradlin. “It protects us against malware, ransomware, exploits, and unknown zero-day threats. When we first turned it on, I was pleasantly surprised at how effectively Malwarebytes uncovered threats we didn’t know were there.”

Fort Walton Machining’s systems are scanned regularly and Malwarebytes sends email alerts to Spradlin and his team when it detects a threat. The team remediates systems on a case-by-case basis.

## Working towards NIST compliance




Fort Walton Machining’s customer and vendors demand increasing levels of security, and the company is currently working toward meeting National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) cybersecurity framework compliance standards. Every layer of security, including Malwarebytes protection on endpoints, plays a critical role in helping Fort Walton Machining stay ahead of cyber threats.

## Enhancing manufacturing uptime

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## | About

Malwarebytes is the next-gen cybersecurity company that millions worldwide trust. Malwarebytes proactively protects people and businesses against dangerous threats such as malware, ransomware, and exploits that escape detection by traditional antivirus solutions. The company’s flagship product combines advanced heuristic threat detection with signature-less technologies to detect and stop a cyberattack before damage occurs. More than 10,000 businesses worldwide use, trust, and recommend Malwarebytes. Founded in 2008, the company is headquartered in California, with offices in Europe and Asia, and a global team of threat researchers and security experts.

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