



IT stays on track at Spyker F1 with AVG Internet Security

ABOUT SPYKER

Internet security software from AVG is playing an important role behind the scenes at the Etihad Aldar Spyker Formula One team in the 2007 FIA Formula One World Championship - its first full season at the highest level of global motor sport.

Spyker's heritage in motor racing dates back to 1898 when two brothers, Jacobus and Hendrik-Jan Spijker built their first motorcar. Since those early days, Spyker has been renowned for combining technological innovation with a drive for engineering perfection and superb quality. Over the years

Spyker cars won gruelling races, set speed records and became recognised members of the world's racing car elite.

Today the Spyker F1 team employs more than 200 staff. Operations are split over two sites with management, design and administration based at Spyker's Silverstone headquarters and the race and engineering teams at their testing facility near Brackley. IT communication between the two sites takes place over a dedicated line. The company's 350-plus networked machines are used by everyone from admin and account staff through to engineers and designers.

STAYING MOBILE

The IT department attends every test and race event and is responsible for setting up the team's mobile IT systems. An array of computers are used to set up and monitor the cars and make the Spyker F1 team function. Wherever the team goes, it stays in touch with the UK sites via a wide area network (WAN).

Huge amounts of telemetry data is gathered from the cars during racing and testing which is continuously fed back to the pit lane systems and to the UK factory in minute detail. The performance statistics are analysed immediately so that any adjustments can be made right away.

STAYING AHEAD

Up until recently Spyker's Internet security was handled by one of the leading anti-virus software brands. The problem was that it was very demanding, slowing down system resources. In Formula One, every second counts so it is imperative that any security solution should have minimal impact on the smooth running of the IT systems. Slow or faulty computers could easily affect the result of a race at great expense to the team.

When the licences were due for renewal, Head of IT, Adrian Collinson decided to look for an alternative security solution. "It is imperative that all our IT systems remain free from malware," commented Collinson. "We needed a comprehensive security suite that wasn't so resource intensive yet still offered second to none protection.

"It was also essential that cost was kept to a minimum. Every penny saved can be spent on further developing the cars to make them quicker."

Spyker opted for AVG's Internet Security Suite. "The AVG Internet Security suite ticked all the right boxes," commented Collinson. "It is well-known for being comparatively light on system resources plus the licensing model works out better value than a one year licence from the more high profile brands."



Upon installing AVG Internet Security across the network a number of previously unidentified viruses were found immediately and successfully removed. Users reported a noticeable increase in performance of the computers and as a result, a number of Spyker employees have now installed AVG on their home PC's.

Collinson commented "AVG Internet Security suite is super efficient. It offers excellent protection and is

cheaper, quicker and easier to manage than any of the other options we researched. It is also reassuring to know that if ever there is a problem, having ready access to qualified engineers is a godsend, not that we have ever needed to use them yet."

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