

Websense Acquires Defensio Extending Web 2.0 Security Capabilities

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What are you announcing today?

Websense, Inc. (NASDAQ: [WBSN](#)) today announced the acquisition of Defensio, a technology platform focused on solving the problem of spam on the social Web. The acquisition immediately extends the content identification and classification capabilities of the Websense [ThreatSeeker™ Network](#) by providing visibility into spam posted as comments to social Web sites, including blogs, user forums and social networking sites. Websense will also enhance Defensio Web services so third-party Web 2.0 developers can embed Websense® content classification intelligence into their applications.

How much did Defensio cost?

Financial details of the transaction were not disclosed.

Why did Websense buy Defensio?

Defensio provides the Websense ThreatSeeker™ Network with both a cloud-based Web service platform and a killer Web 2.0 application – for blog spam filtering -- already built on that platform. Defensio (1) provides an infrastructure to expand core Websense classification technology to emerging Web 2.0 applications, (2) provides real-world data from blog comments (and other applications that rely on user-generated content) that will feed into the Websense Security Labs and make Websense products more accurate and effective.

What type of security threat do user-generated sites pose?

Criminals are adding Web 2.0 sites to their arsenal to spread spam and malicious code, boost search engine rankings and drive phishing and fraud scams. According to Websense Security Labs™ research, more than 95 percent of all Web posts on blogs, forums and other sites are unwanted content such as spam and malicious content. Additionally, more than 70 percent of all Web spam and unwanted content is hosted on legitimate sites that allow user-generated content.

Can Defensio be used only on blogs?

No. One of the first applications of Defensio's spam filtering service has been the blogosphere -- but it doesn't end there. Defensio has an easy-to-use API that is perfectly suited to handling traffic from any application that accepts user-generated content that might be subject to spam, malicious or objectionable content.

What's an example of how Websense and Defensio work together?

Before the US presidential inauguration of Barack Obama, [Websense used Defensio to detect](#) that attackers had compromised the US President Elect's Web site by registering bogus user accounts and using them to spread malware and objectionable content on the blogs on MyBarackObama.com. Defensio found the malicious content and Defensio users were protected through the Defensio platform; Websense customers were protected from the added protection of the ThreatSeeker Network.

Why should third-party developers take note of this acquisition?

Imagine if developers didn't have to embed anything in applications or products – just write to an API – to determine if content is good, malicious, unwanted or objectionable. That's the vision of Websense + Defensio for Web 2.0 developers. Websense is committed to Defensio developers, and Websense plans to maintain and enhance the Defensio platform. Developers interested in integrating Defensio into their own Web app should check out the Defensio [API spec](#) and/or email Websense Business Development at BusinessDev@websense.com.

What's the timeline for integration?

Websense has already actively integrated Defensio data into the ThreatSeeker Network – already providing an extra level of Web 2.0 protection for Websense customers. Websense also plans to make several Defensio enhancements over the next few months.

Will Websense start charging for the Defensio blog spam filter for personal use?

No – Websense plans to continue to offer the blog spam filter at no charge for personal use blogs. Websense will also offer a 6 month trial for commercial users at no cost.