



NATHAN SMITH A SECURE SERVER STORY

A message from **firehost**



Overheard

“If my website goes down or is offline, it is a direct reflection on me to my peers – other web designers and developers.”

Company Background

Nathan Smith is a freelance web designer, author, and creator for several websites including his personal website, SonSpring (www.sonspring.com). Perhaps most notably, Smith created the highly successful and widely adopted open-source page layout framework, 960 Grid System, (www.960.gs). Somewhere, Smith finds the time to run Fellowship Technologies (www.fellowshiptech.com), where he designs user interfaces for the organization’s Web applications. Smith also leads a community site of more than 900 registered users called Godbit (www.godbit.com) that is focused on educating Christian designers and developers about how open source Web technologies can help improve their respective ministries.

Nathan Smith has amazing energy, amazing drive, and perhaps and even more impressive reputation to protect.

Business Challenge

- Smith pours countless hours of time and effort into web development projects.
- Smith’s personal brand is directly tied to the quality and security of the sites that he runs, so it was unacceptable when both sonspring.com and 960.gs were hacked while being hosted in an extremely popular hosting provider’s environment.
- Tech support at his previous host wasn't able to identify how the intrusion had happened, nor could they isolate the problem.
- Subsequently, Smith’s sites were banned by Google.

Solution

- FireHost’s engineers reviewed logs containing information about the intrusion and were able to offer step-by-step instructions on how to repair and secure the sites.
- Once the sites were cleaned up, Smith subscribed to a hosting package to address each website’s vulnerabilities. It features segmented SFTP accounts per domain, application level firewalls, weekly security audits, and more.
- Since consolidating his sites onto a Secure Server with FireHost, Smith has experienced superior uptime, and more importantly, zero intrusions or attacks.
- Smith receives regular, detailed reports about threats that attempt to harm his sites, and FireHost even explains how they are dispelled.

Visit Nathan Smith’s Websites:

www.sonspring.com • www.960.gs • www.godbit.com