

Amity Business School

Creating a safe environment for learning

Situation

Amity Business School is part of Amity University, the first and largest private university in India, recently ranked by the Times of India as the top private university in India. Amity Business School was also named top business school for the third consecutive year. Amity University is headquartered in Delhi and has 88 institutions over 22 campuses across India, with 40,000 students in over 130 programs, from law, to journalism, to technology.

Amity Business School was the first institution to have a wireless campus and to provide wireless notebook computers to its students. The various Amity campuses are connected by a heterogeneous network composed of redundant Internet connections with broadband speeds. Its data center in Delhi hosts more than 15 servers that provide critical services, such as an Online Admission System with tracking, and an intranet portal for staff, students and faculty members.

"The institution stores critical data pertaining to admissions, examinations, results and assignments on its systems, and has a varied user base, with different requirements for students, faculty members, staff and administrative employees," explained Shri J.S. Sodhi, Senior Manager-IT.

The challenge for Amity's 50-strong IT team was how to maintain open access to information resources both inside and outside the campus grounds, while still assuring sufficient security, so that confidential data does not leak out, nor hackers get in.

Solution

We have, on occasion, had network intrusions and gateway-level attacks against our institution last year," said Mr. Sodhi. This prompted a review of the security infrastructure, and Amity decided that the best approach to deal with these network threats was a gateway-level security solution.

Amity evaluated solutions from several security vendors before eventually deciding on Fortinet.

Mr. Sodhi explains, "Fortinet's all-in-one architecture tilted the balance in its favor. We needed an all-in-one solution with scalability, performance, bandwidth management and optimization, in addition to conventional security features such as firewall, antivirus and intrusion prevention. Fortinet gave us all that. We were satisfied with the trials, seeing that the product worked well on our network with no integration issues to grapple with."

Amity purchased and deployed a FortiGate-500A at its Noida campus, and a FortiGate-200A at its headquarters in Delhi. Different products were deployed at the two locations because of the number of concurrent network users.

AMITY
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"After the deployment of the FortiGate-500A, and observing its performance, we gained a lot of confidence in Fortinet's products, and deployed the FortiGate-200A at the headquarters, where our management sits. There is zero tolerance for downtime there, and Fortinet has helped keep it that way."

- Mr. J. S. Sodhi
Senior Manager - IT

FortiGate-500A
FortiGate-200A
FortiReporter

Industry: Higher Education

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"The FortiGate units gave us the capability to support dual redundant ISP connections. We have a 4Mbps pipe from Reliance and a 1Mbps connection to Primus, both connected to the same gateway device," said Mr. Sodhi.

Amity has also purchased and deployed FortiReporter, a browser-based analysis, reporting and monitoring solution for FortiGate antivirus firewalls. This utility generates nearly 300 pages of reports on bandwidth utilization on the Amity network, attack attempts, and virus incidents. Special personnel are assigned the responsibility of reviewing those reports and developing recommendations or responses to situations that may arise.

Success

After the successful deployment of the FortiGate units, Amity Business School has seen a drop in network intrusions, virus outbreaks and security incidents, and a significant improvement in network performance.

Amity's IT team also uses up-to-the-minute reporting facilities in FortiReporter to gain insights into the state of the network at any time, as well as important information that may help in responding to network incidents.

Says Mr Sodhi, "After the deployment of the FortiGate-500A, and observing its performance, we gained a lot of confidence in Fortinet's products, and deployed the FortiGate-200A at the headquarters, where our management sits. There is zero tolerance for downtime there, and Fortinet has helped keep it that way."

FortiReporter Security Analyzer is a cost-effective, browser-based, analysis, reporting and monitoring solution that generates easy-to-understand reports across all FortiGate platform functionalities and provides IT administrators and security professionals with insight into network usage and attack activities.

The FortiGate-200A Antivirus Firewall is suited for branch and satellite offices. The FortiGate-200A platform features dual WAN link support for redundant Internet connections, and an integrated 4-port switch.

The FortiGate-500A Antivirus Firewalls can be deployed as a high performance antivirus and content filtering gateway, or as a complete network protection solution leveraging firewall, intrusion detection and prevention, and VPN capabilities. The FortiGate-500A platform features two 10/100/1000 tri-speed ethernet ports provide flexibility for networks running at or upgrading to gigabit speeds, 4 user-definable 10/100 ports for redundant WAN links, high availability, and multi-zone capabilities Ideally suited for enterprise networks, the FortiGate-500A is unmatched in capabilities, speed, and price/performance.

Fortinet.com/contact

Tel: +1-408-235-7700 - Sales: +1-866-868-3678 - Tech Support: +1-866-648-4638

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