

Asia Commercial Bank

Vietnam's leading financial institution deploys Fortinet's solutions for security

Case Study

Situation

Asia Commercial Bank (ACB) is one of Vietnam's leading financial institutions, providing a full range of banking and related services, including loans, insurance, and foreign exchange for corporate and consumer clients. The bank is privately owned, and its major shareholders include Jardine Matheson Holdings and Standard Chartered. Headquartered in Ho Chi Minh City, ACB has more than 100 branches throughout the country.



ACB is known in Vietnam to be an early adopter of new technologies. With the country's rapid economic growth in recent years, the expansion of ACB's banking network, and the introduction of new services such as Internet banking and securities trading, ACB has seen a dramatic increase in systems on its network. This has raised the level of risk to its data from virus outbreaks and other security threats. ACB needed a solid defense strategy backed by robust and easily scaleable solutions to safeguard customer data and allow its clients to conduct transactions with confidence.

Solution

ACB began its evaluation of security solutions in 2002, testing products from a range of vendors, including CheckPoint, but eventually chose Fortinet solutions because of the versatility of its products. The deputy manager of the bank's Information Technology Division, Tran The Nam, notes while other solutions tend to separate firewall and intrusion detection functions, the FortiGate family unites these capabilities in a single, user-friendly appliance. He says ACB was also impressed by the strength of Fortinet's local support and its commitment to Vietnam, a nascent market where the vendor moved to establish its presence early. "We've had a strong relationship with Fortinet from the beginning," says Nam. "When we were first looking at really using the Internet and protecting our network, they were already there to help."

"The biggest advantage of Fortinet is that the company manages to combine so many functions in one appliance and still keep prices reasonable."

–Tran The Nam, Deputy Manager, Information Technology Division, Asia Commercial Bank

Initially, the bank had installed at its head office two FortiGate™-500 systems, which have recently been replaced by one FortiGate™-1000AFA2 and one FortiGate-1000A with IPS and anti-spam features activated. The FortiGate systems are used to secure access to the corporate network and its core banking platform. The core network is currently being overhauled to incorporate business intelligence, online banking, and imaging functions. The FortiGate-1000AFA2 and FortiGate-1000A are supplemented with a FortiGate-200 at ACB's card center, which runs antivirus and intrusion prevention solutions around the clock protecting the data generated from the tens of thousands of credit and debit cards the bank has issued to its customers. ACB has also deployed FortiGate-60 firewalls at 20 key branches.

Deployment:

1 x FortiGate-1000AFA2
1 x FortiGate 1000A
2 x FortiGate-500
1 x FortiGate-200
20 x FortiGate-60
FortiGuard IPS, anti-virus, anti-spam service

Success

Since implementation, Mr. Nam says the Fortinet devices have run remarkably smooth and ensured ACB's network has yet to suffer a single intrusion or security-related downtime incident. As the bank prepares to develop its range of online services and boost its presence in underserved parts of Vietnam, Nam says it will build up its Fortinet deployment to match. Over the next year ACB plans to invest in FortiManager™-400 and FortiAnalyzer™-800 management and reporting systems, as well as more FortiGate™-60 firewalls for additional branch offices.

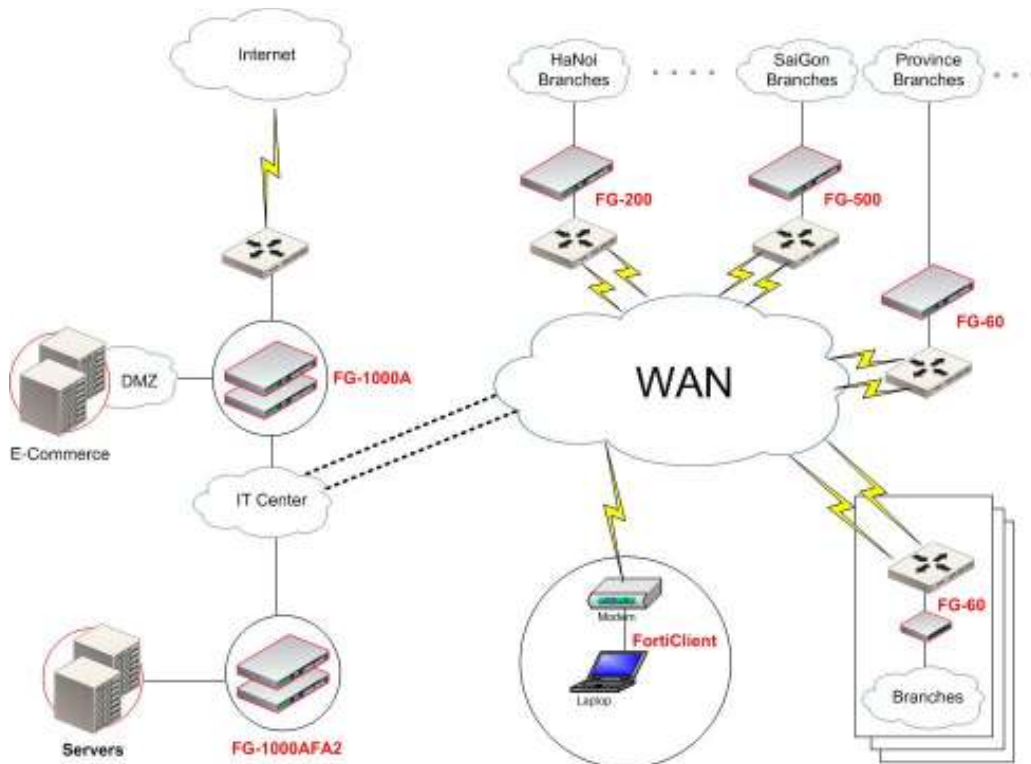
Industry:

Financial Services

"The biggest advantage of Fortinet is that the company manages to combine so many functions in one appliance and still keep prices reasonable," he says. "We were also impressed by the help we received from Fortinet's local team in the planning and deployment stage, which made sure the solutions were easy for administrators to install and use."

Nam says the bank's management and employees are also increasingly appreciative of the role Fortinet has played in supporting ACB's technology-centric strategy and safeguarding the institution's reputation.

"They may not see the tools working, but they're aware that the solutions are keeping our networks safe and giving customers confidence as we grow, expand, and move more banking online," he says.



About Fortinet

Fortinet is the pioneer and market leading provider of ASIC-accelerated unified threat management (UTM) systems, which are used by enterprises and service providers to increase their security while reducing total operating costs. Fortinet solutions were built from the ground up to integrate multiple levels of security protection—including firewall, antivirus, intrusion prevention, Web content filtering, VPN, spyware prevention and antispam—providing customers a way to protect multiple threats as well as blended threats. Leveraging a custom ASIC and unified interface, Fortinet solutions offer advanced security functionality that scales from remote office to chassis-based solutions with integrated management and reporting. Fortinet solutions have won multiple awards around the world and are the only security products that are certified eight times over by the ICSA (firewall, antivirus, IPSec, SSL, IDS, client antivirus detection, cleaning and antispayware). Fortinet is privately held and based in Sunnyvale, California.

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