

Malayala Manorama

Repelling intruders and staying virus-free

Case Study

Situation

Malayala Manorama was established in 1888, and has become one of the leading newspapers in Malayalam today. The company publishes many well-regarded periodicals such as The Week, Vanitha, Vanitha Hindi, Magic Pot, English Year Book, Amarchitrakatha, and Balarama among others. Malayala Manorama has 75 offices and 15 printing locations across India.



Malayala Manorama gets news, photos, advertisements from all over the country and the world. Previously, the mode of collection was very manual and a lot of work went into converting material into digital format. Currently, the Internet is used as the primary medium for collecting and publishing news stories and getting advertisement revenue. The company thus needed the flexibility to stay connected to the Internet all the time.

According to V V Jacob, Manager- Systems, the networks have to be continuously running at all hours. The situation can get critical, especially when the newspaper goes for printing, and when no support can be expected from vendors. Downtime would severely impact the operations and revenues of the company.

Solution

To deal with the risks of an "always on" connection to the Internet, Malayala Manorama decided to put in place a security infrastructure that could effectively protect their data assets. The company evaluated products from many vendors and eventually selected Fortinet. What tipped the decision in Fortinet's favor were the integrated security functions, such as antivirus and firewall, and the ability of Fortinet's FortiGate products to operate in transparent mode.

The company decided to deploy the FortiGate units at the outermost perimeter, and just in front of the mail server to screen incoming mail for viruses before they have had a chance to break into the network. In all, two FortiGate-200s, one FortiGate-400 and one FortiGate-500 appliances are deployed in three locations, including the main uplink facility. All units have real-time antivirus, firewall, VPN, network intrusion detection and prevention, and traffic-shaping services turned on. Supporting this infrastructure is FortiAnalyzer which provides reporting functions.

The deployment was done by the company's IT team and it went very smoothly, without any issues or downtime during the installation.

Success

Among the many benefits that Malayala Manorama is seeing since their Fortinet deployment are:

- Zero downtime during installation
- Dramatically reduced number of virus outbreaks and intrusions
- Improvement in network performance
- No per-user licensing, so the solution is quite a flexible

Jacob says that the number of virus attacks has dropped dramatically, and is very infrequent now. The number of intrusions has also come down considerably. Fortinet appliances have been able to deliver the bandwidth QoS required, and network performance has also improved because of the improved security. Malayala Manorama was so impressed with the FortiGate products that it is now in the process of evaluating Fortinet's spam control software.

Deployment:
FortiGate-200
FortiGate-400
FortiGate-500
FortiAnalyzer

Industry:
Media

Explains Jacob, "Most security products operate on a per-user basis. In the case of Fortinet, the product secures the whole network. It requires only a one-time investment and has no license restriction on the number of users." All Fortinet products deployed by Malayala Manorama are automatically updated through FortiGuard, a subscription-based service.

The security infrastructure has been operating successfully for a little over 2 years now.

About Fortinet

Fortinet is the pioneer and leading provider of ASIC-accelerated unified threat management, or UTM, security 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, VPN, spyware prevention and anti-spam -- designed to help customers protect against network and content level 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 in seven programs by ICSA Labs: (Firewall, Antivirus, IPSec, SSL, Network IPS, Anti-Spyware, and Anti-Spam). Fortinet is privately held and based in Sunnyvale, California.

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