

maxon motor

Swiss manufacturer of high-precision drive systems
strengthens security with Fortinet's UTM solution

Case Study

Situation

maxon motor is a global leader in high-precision drive systems. The 144-million euros company focuses on constant innovation, high product quality and superior customer service. For over 40 years, maxon motor has produced solutions for countless applications in markets including industrial automation, medical technology, security technology, measurement and testing technology, communication or consumer applications. In particular, NASA's Mars Rover space probe was equipped with maxon micromotors.



Medical, semiconductor and security technology, and even aviation and communication are successful areas of application for maxon motor. Because of the nature of its business, an efficient IT security strategy is absolutely critical to the Swiss technology company.

At maxon motor, the majority of business applications have long since been digitalized, compelling any strategy aimed at delivering comprehensive IT security to comply not only with the technologies and organization in place, but also with the conditions required by the legal framework. For system administrators, this means the extensive care and maintenance of the systems as well as the regular review of the solutions implemented. It is during one such review that maxon motor realized that their infrastructure required additional security elements to strengthen protection at the perimeter and make their overall security solution more reliable.

"Reliable secure IT infrastructure is critical, particularly where the production of high-precision industrial parts and materials is concerned", comments Franz Kaiser, Fortinet's Regional Director Switzerland. "We were able to provide the optimum solution to meet maxon motor's needs. Our extensive experience with industrial companies enabled us to pinpoint exactly where their problems were. "

Solution

At a time when UTM systems were relatively unknown, maxon motor decided to deploy several FortiGate™ multi-threat security platforms as well as FortiManager™ and FortiAnalyzer™ to centrally manage the appliances and provide security reports and analysis. FortiGate platforms are used for virus and spam protection, IDS/IPS, and Web content filtering. Only when data traffic has been scanned by Fortinet's platforms, is it considered clean and permitted in the network, in compliance with global corporate guidelines.

"The project was conducted in several phases. In the initial phase, the security solution was implemented at the company's headquarters before being rolled out to the remaining maxon branches," explains Christian Kälin.

Deployment:

FortiGate -100A
FortiGate – 200A
FortiGate - 500A
FortiAnalyzer - 800
FortiMail – 400
FortiManager

Industry:

Automotive

maxon's decision-making was driven by economic aspects but also by the solution's performance to rigorous test analysis. In fact, Fortinet's security appliances came through every test with high marks.

"What particularly impressed us was the stability, functionality and simplicity of the system, plus the outstanding manufacturer support," adds Kälin. The benefits associated with a UTM solution, such as integrated security, central maintenance and management, were additional factors that ultimately made the decision a clear-cut one. Kälin concludes: "Our decision was clinched by the Fortinet solution's straightforward implementation in bridge mode with existing security features."

The results and performance of FortiGate multi-threat security platforms surprised the IT department. "As our previous solution had become unreliable, we had decided to install Fortinet's security appliances in front of the old firewall as an additional security element", remembers Kälin. "We were amazed to see that the FortiGate appliance reliably destroyed the majority of viruses coming from HTTP and SMTP."

With such results, maxon quickly made the decision to protect all direct Internet connections with FortiGate multi-threat security platforms. The implementation was enhanced by the addition of a range of FortiGate multi-threat security appliances, centrally managed by FortiManager.

Success

maxon motor is a good example of the challenges involved in enabling integrated security in a global network environment, while complying with statutory directives and maintaining ease of management. At maxon motor, Fortinet has become a central part of the company's global security policy, with Fortinet's FortiGate appliances implemented in each branch office connected to the Internet.

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 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 ICSA Labs (firewall, antivirus, IPSec, SSL, IPS, client antivirus detection, cleaning and antispayware). Fortinet is privately held and based in Sunnyvale, California.