

Sonata Software

Increasing productivity and protecting intellectual property with Fortinet solutions

Situation

Sonata Software Ltd. is a premier US\$ 77 million-worth IT consulting and software services company headquartered in Bangalore, India, with offices in the USA, UK, Germany and Singapore. Sonata is certified SEI CMM Level 5 and leverages a global onsite-offshore delivery model. Its clients include Franklin Templeton, Deutsche Bank, Provimi, Gupta Technologies and others, and the company has strategic alliances with Microsoft, Oracle and IBM.

In India, the company has three development centers in Bangalore and one at Hyderabad. The headquarters campus in Bangalore, housing a data center and a development center, connects to the other two development centers in the city via wireless technologies. The Hyderabad development center is connected to the Bangalore facilities through leased lines and other offices in India connect to headquarters through Virtual Private Networks (VPNs).

"Being a software development company, Sonata considers the security of its intellectual property as top priority and overall information security is of paramount importance," says Mr. V.C. Sekhar, Senior Manager (IT) for Sonata Software. "We have had incidents of virus attacks on our networks, and spyware has become a significant nuisance. Spamming was also a major issue as we received no less than 40,000 mails a day. Something had to be done."

The challenge of protecting such as extensive and geographically dispersed network was complicated by the number of workstations and servers that Sonata had at the various facilities in India. The headquarters in Bangalore had about 650 workstations and 30 servers, hosting mission-critical applications such as mail and DNS services, as well as the company Intranet. The other two development centers in Bangalore had about 800 workstations between them, and there are up to 150 workstations and 10 servers in Hyderabad.

Solution

Sonata evaluated solutions from several vendors besides Fortinet including Cisco and Symantec.

"We eventually chose Fortinet because of its integrated security approach. With the number of servers, workstations and facilities we needed a solution that was easy to manage and would not take up too much time and resources which may be needed elsewhere." Said Mr. Harish Kumar, Network Administrator, Sonata Software.

Sonata deployed one FortiGate-500 antivirus firewall at the headquarters facility in Bangalore, one FortiGate-400, one FortiGate-400A, and FortiGate-500 systems at the other two development facilities in Bangalore. A FortiGate-800 was deployed at the Hyderabad office. All



"We see Fortinet's key differentiator as the integration of critical security services, such as antivirus, firewall, IDS/IPS, web filtering and anti-spam in a single appliance platform. This makes the Fortinet solution easier to deploy and much simpler to manage."

V.C. Sekhar,
Senior Manager-IT
Sonata Software

Systems:
FortiGate-500
FortiGate-400
FortiGate-400A
FortiGate-800

Industry: Software & IT
consulting services

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the security platforms were deployed at the network edge, securing the infrastructure of the organization from the computer and network threats outside. The antivirus, firewall and IPS (Intrusion Prevention System) capabilities are being utilized, along with Network Address Translation (NAT).

Explained Mr. Harish Kumar: "We have a two-layer security setup: the Fortinet integrated security appliances are deployed at the gateway level, and we have deployed security solutions at a second level as well. We have found that the Fortinet platform catches about 80 to 85 percent of viruses and malicious code."

Success

"We needed a solution that would not affect the performance of our network. The fact that the FortiGate platforms had ASIC-based hardware acceleration assured us that the product would not create bandwidth bottlenecks," continued Mr. Kumar.

The IT staff at Sonata were particularly impressed with the ease of setting up VPN connections. "The user-friendly GUI (Graphical User Interface) made it very easy to deploy and manage our corporate VPN," said Mr. Kumar.

"There was one other feature about Fortinet's FortiGate platform that we liked," added Mr. Sekhar. "The Fortinet product also permits us to connect to two ISPs at the same time. This extra level of redundancy on the same appliance is important for people in our business, where staying connected is a high priority."

Sonata also has Fortinet's FortiGuard Subscription Service that provides continuous automated push updates of the latest virus signatures and countermeasures against the latest computer and network threats.

"The FortiGuard Service has been satisfactory so far. The service has kept our platforms updated, enabling them to effectively protect our network. Apart from easier management and faster performance, this reassurance makes Fortinet a very compelling vendor indeed."

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V.C. Sekhar,
Senior Manager-IT

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