

### Situation

Home to more than 900 animals, and 130 zoo staff, the Calgary Zoo is a popular destination for individuals, families and businesses. Over 1 million visitors enjoy the zoo each year, many of them for business meetings and company parties. The Calgary Zoo offers full facility meeting rooms as well as different areas within the zoo for business and social purposes. These services help fund the zoo, including their conservation and education programs.



The zoo recently found itself unable to keep up with the increasing network demand from the influx of Internet-based business communications; experiencing frequent email outages and insufficient protection from security threats. This came to a head when one virus caused several days of pain and network downtime. "Naturally, it became more and more business critical to have the network up and running," said Bob Gebert, manager of information systems at the Calgary Zoo. "It also became clear that more and more viruses were on the way, so the zoo's Internet network firewall needed to be upgraded."

### Solution

After some research, the Calgary Zoo found the Fortinet antivirus gateway to be the solutions with appealing features, such as automatic virus signature updates. Ease-of-use played a big role in the decision process for the zoo. Senior Network Administrator, Peter Cam, "was able to get up and running with the Fortinet systems much faster than anticipated, and his level of comfort was much higher."

Deploying six (6) integrated wireless security gateways, FortiWiFi-60, and one FortiGate-400 system, the Calgary Zoo soon found itself more able to compete on a network basis with hotels for mid-week event business. Using the FortiWiFi-60 systems in their conference rooms has increased the usability and attractiveness of the zoo's space to potential customers. Previously, customer laptops were put through a lengthy virus scan process before they were able to access the Internet in the meeting rooms. But with the deployment of the FortiWiFi-60 system, customers are now not required to scan their laptops and consequently able to get their meetings up and running much faster.

The FortiGate-400 system is currently deployed as the main firewall for the Calgary Zoo's website, scanning all incoming and outgoing network traffic. However, there are also big plans ahead for the zoo's networking systems. "A significant reason why the zoo chose the FortiGate-400 system was because of its ability to scale to higher speed throughput and feature set support paralleling with the zoo's growth. High availability and an integrated hard drive for logging information were also important features," said Gebert. The VPN functionality of the FortiGate system will also become important in the near future, as zoo administrators and veterinarians are given the ability to access the network remotely.

The Fortinet solutions deployed by the Calgary Zoo are automatically updated against new viruses and intrusions through the global FortiProtect Service. This global update service ensures that all registered FortiGate systems are automatically updated in real time in response to new attacks and intrusion threats.

### Success

The Calgary Zoo is using Fortinet solutions and saving network support time and competing successfully in new markets. Visions of the zoo's "wireless" future are also being realized, as the zoo plans on expanding their use of FortiWiFi-60 systems to allow for safe, point-of-sale transactions at social events, as well as to help support the campus-like network environment at the zoo.

**Headquarters**  
Calgary, Canada

**Industry**  
Government

**Products**  
FortiGate-400  
FortiWiFi-60

Gebert defined overall success as the flexibility, reliability and ease-of-use of the Fortinet solution. "We were up and running and comfortable with Fortinet in just a few hours. This helped convince us that we had picked the right product with the right features to scale with our network needs securely."

## 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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