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– Andrey Nastin,
Head of the Security Department at Beltelecom

БЕЛТЕЛЕКОМ

Beltelecom Relies on High-Performance Security Solutions

Beltelecom is a leading telecommunication company with a long history. It was founded on July 3, 1995 as a Republican State Association. On August 1, 2004, the company was restructured as a Republican Unitary Telecommunication Enterprise. Today, Beltelecom has nine branches and three production sites within its head structural unit. More than 18,000 employees work for Beltelecom which provides approximately 70 different services.

Business Challenge

Beltelecom develops and provides a range of communication services that are important for the state, private and corporate customers, and society as a whole. In its activities, the company is implementing a policy of expansion and improvement of telecommunication services. The largest telecommunication operator in the Republic of Belarus, the company is developing dynamically.

In 2013, the Republic of Belarus introduced new rules for network security. In accordance with these requirements, Beltelecom's senior management decided to implement additional solutions in the company's IT security system.

According to Andrey Nastin, head of the security department at Beltelecom: First of all, there was a need to consolidate the stability of the company's business processes. And second, due to the way the company and market were developing, they began to consider the possibility of offering additional services to their customers. One of these came to be known as the Parental Control web filtering service.

Details

Customer Name: Beltelecom
Industry: Telecommunications
Location: Minsk

Business Impact

- Established high-performance protection system for confidential information (commercial secrets, service information, and other information with restricted distribution)

- Achieved a high level of information security and appropriate response to existing and potential threats

- Built protection for the company's IT infrastructure with minimal downtime from the growing attacks

Solutions & Results

At that time, Beltelecom was using a variety of network security solutions to protect its IT infrastructure. Fortinet was chosen in part because it holds all required certificates in compliance with new national security regulations.

 "The scope of the threat we face is vast. From the simplest attacks on individual workstations and servers to more sophisticated attacks, such as DDoS attacks on information systems," Nastin explains. "Through a tender process, we examined the solutions offered by a number of vendors for effective protection from such threats. One of the main requirements of providers was the availability of a certificate that complies with the new TP 2013/027/BY regulations. It was also important for the equipment to include antivirus software, DLP, SIEM, an intrusion prevention system, and web filtering options. Fortinet was successful in meeting our technical and financial requirements. We were impressed by the possibility of centralized management and event collection, as well as the scalability of its solutions."

When it came to implementing the Fortinet solutions, there were two major tasks that had to be carried out. First, it was essential to automate the system for protecting confidential information (commercial secrets, service information, and other information with restricted distribution) and sharing it with partners. Second, it was necessary to increase the business's profitability by expanding the range of services offered to the market.

Work on applying the Fortinet equipment to the data transfer network was completed in 2013, and to the data processing network in early 2015. All in all, completing these projects took about a year and a half.

During implementation on Beltelecom's data transfer network, a series of problems arose involving integration with equipment already in use, but these complications were successfully resolved with help from the production team and also from Solidex — Fortinet's platinum partner in Belarus. This experience was taken into consideration during the modernization of the processing center and such complications did not occur again.

Today, as a platform to offer additional services to customers, Beltelecom uses the FortiGate-5140 chassis with blades installed that are sufficient to meet production needs. The data processing center is protected by the FortiGate-3810A, FortiGate-3600C, and FortiDDOS-2000B, as well as other Fortinet solutions. For more effective management, the FortiManager is in place. For reporting, the FortiAnalyzer is deployed.

A team of ten employees is responsible for managing the company's IT infrastructure. At the request of Beltelecom, Solidex trained each one of the staff members on all aspects of the new Fortinet system.

Benefits

In Nastin's opinion, the most important aspect of implementing Fortinet's solutions was to deploy the full functionality of the next-generation firewalls (NGFW).This deployment optimized the IT infrastructure. Using the full range of options offered by the NGFW did not require the purchase of additional equipment, only subscriptions to the relevant services.

Beltelecom's specialists strive to maintain the highest standard of information security and to respond appropriately to existing and potential threats. Fortinet's solutions enable them to minimize the number of incidents and to ensure the effective protection of information resources from unauthorized access and DDoS attacks.

Nastin concluded, "Although the number of threats is increasing every day, it also is becoming more complicated for hackers to penetrate corporate networks. After implementing the Fortinet solutions, Beltelecom's IT specialists managed to ensure a high level of protection for the company's IT infrastructure with minimal downtime from the growing attacks."

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