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– Chris Anderson
Security Administrator
Salt Lake County



FortiGate Helps Salt Lake County Tackle Unanticipated Challenges

Situation

Salt Lake County was initially drawn to Fortinet when their last security appliances were nearing end of life and end of support, this prompted Salt Lake County’s security administrator Chris Anderson to find a higher performance option with more available features. With both unique and demanding network needs Salt Lake County began looking for newer higher performance appliances to protect their network. One driving factor in their consideration, other than price, was the availability of new features that would be able to tackle new challenges as they arose and be capable of scaling up in the future for growth. The Salt Lake County office in Utah supports up to five thousand users with a wide variety of user needs across the entire county, ranging between full and partial access depending on various job descriptions. This enterprise class network contains multiple locations of varying sizes. There are two large campuses, and many smaller service centers, as well as providing private network connection to Salt Lake City, the state of Utah, and the County Library who each maintain their own network. With only three individuals on staff dedicated to security (at a time) an easy-to-use interface was integral to their end selection. In the

Details

Customer Name: Salt Lake County
Industry: Government
Location: Utah

Challenges

- Maintain and overall low TCO deployment
- Find a solution capable of addressing or upgrading to handle unanticipated challenges

Objectives

- Obtain wider range of functionality (such as Web Filtering and App Control)
- Higher performance solution capable of additional features

Deployment

- FortiGate-620B
- FortiGate-310B
- FortiGate-80C

selection process Fortinet came out on top due to the availability of desired features, its ability to grow with unanticipated challenges, and lower overall TCO.

Solution

To tackle some of Salt Lake's challenges they desired a solution that would incorporate a greater number of ports, web filtering capabilities, and application control features. This is all in addition to Fortinet's world class Unified Threat Management and firewall performance. Within Salt Lake County's deployment are six FortiGate-620Bs (three active-active cluster pairs for external protection), four FortiGate-310Bs (two active-active cluster pairs for extranet connections) and multiple FortiGate-80Cs. The larger units are deployed in three active-active cluster pairs and service the majority of the network, while the smaller units are used to protect financial centers within the network. This is mainly due to the requirement for PCI compliancy within the financial centers. Additionally, Fortinet's SSL and VPN capabilities allow some senior centers and Fine Arts centers to get connectivity to the county network. It was because Fortinet offered the most features for the cost, with the smallest hit to performance, for the features they needed that Fortinet was selected for Salt Lake County's security solution.

Success

Application control and web filtering were always within the scope of the solution, but Chris Anderson found that the amount they are using it is much more than was previously anticipated. Salt Lake County has been a customer for four years and has been consistently pleased with how Fortinet products have allowed them to tackle unanticipated challenges, such as a radical scaling up in web filtering and application control, which was previously not thought of as largely important functionalities. One example of the delicate touch of Fortinet's app control capabilities, are the ability to limit Facebook gaming, which Salt Lake found is a significant draw on their bandwidth, but not limit the use of Facebook itself. Chris Anderson shared with us that, "There hasn't been any need for us to switch to anything else" and that Fortinet was satisfying all of their needs, even those that were previously not thought of or believed to be of high priority. In addition to the versatility of the functionalities within the FortiGate devices, the way Fortinet can seamlessly add new security components has allowed Salt Lake County to grow comfortable and satisfy evolving network needs.



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