

CASE STUDY

Fortinet Helps Alaska Airlines Evolve and Grow Security Infrastructure Amid New Threats and Shift to Remote Work

Across its 130 airport locations in North America and five international locations, Alaska Airlines has seen the need to increase the strength of its information security in an ever-changing threat environment. That includes securely managing the data generated by e-connected airplanes and the threat of ransomware attacks throughout its network, all while ensuring business operations run smoothly.

Protecting Against Threats

“Ransomware is one of the biggest threats that most companies face, so we are doing everything in our power to protect ourselves. It is a tall order to protect the entire network,” says Kevin Morrison, chief information security officer at Alaska Airlines. “You have to be right 100% of the time—the attacker only once. We are doing what we possibly can to mitigate the risk—it is what keeps me awake at night. And with Fortinet’s FortiGate driven enterprise grade security, we are confident to prevent ransomware and other cyber-attacks.”

A Shift to a Remote Workforce

Adding to the complexity, all of those security considerations had to remain strong and in place as the world quickly transitioned to remote work environments at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, a change that was a huge adjustment from the normally in-person business dealings with customers, partners, and co-workers.

“With remote work the company had to understand how to do this and make sure we are protecting the organization, protecting our guests’ data, and everything we normally do while in the office. That was a big challenge,” he says.

Morrison says Fortinet has been a crucial piece of the carrier’s security solution during the pandemic. And with an ever-growing menu of products and services being introduced, he says that relationship is expected to become stronger in the years to come.

Readiness for the Future

“Fortinet is one of those technology platforms that you can trust it to do what it is supposed to do, and do it very well. As we continue to look at how Fortinet can plug in to where we identify gaps, I think there is a great opportunity.”

Morrison says business objectives such as completing its network segmentation strategy were helped by the security Fortinet provided after expanding its capabilities with the acquisition of ShieldX, a solution Alaska Airlines was already using for its microsegmentation strategy.

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Details

Customer: Alaska Airlines

Industry: Transportation

Location: Seattle, Washington

Business Impact

- Transition to remote workforce with required consistent security
- Helps with evolution of security needs against emerging threats from ransomware attacks
- Prevent lateral spread of attacks with new capabilities helping Alaska Airlines execute its network segmentation strategy
- Opportunities for new security offerings as both companies continue to grow

Solutions

- FortiGate Next-Generation Firewall (NGFW)