

FINANCIAL SERVICES POWERHOUSE COMBINES PROTECTION AND PERFORMANCE TO SECURE ITS GLOBAL INFRASTRUCTURE



As a leading global provider of financial services – and a name known around the world – the company delivers a wide range of offerings to corporations, governments, institutions and individuals. The firm manages hundreds of offices located in dozens of countries, and relies on an extensive infrastructure to facilitate internal and external operations. With vast sums of money being actively managed each day, maintaining the highest levels of security across the entire environment has always been of paramount importance.

SEIZING THE OPPORTUNITY

The increasing emphasis of financial compliance regulations to ensure the integrity of data exchanges between partners created the opportunity to rearchitect key components of the company's security stack. The criticality of maintaining near-real-time performance – especially for critical markets and trading floor applications – made throughput and the rapid execution of traffic inspections critical considerations for the new infrastructure design.

Another design criterion used in the evaluation of potential solutions was the ease of network segmentation to facilitate the partitioning of critical data and application elements. The enhanced granularity was needed to support the separation of customer and business data, and to provide the basis for expedited detection, isolation and remediation of security threats anywhere across the network.

The magnitude and complexity of the organization's environment created challenges in monitoring and managing the network infrastructure; this made improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the security teams an important factor in the design phase.

MAKING THE CUT

The completion of a rigorous set of selection criteria was followed by an analysis of potential solutions. Market research led to the creation of a short-list that included the incumbent vendor, another well-known player in the security industry, and Fortinet.

"Fortinet provides us with the protection we need without compromising performance across our constantly expanding attack surface."

– Cyber Security Executive

DETAILS

CUSTOMER: Global financial services organization

INDUSTRY: Financial Services

LOCATION: USA

BUSINESS IMPACT

- Sophisticated protection combined with unrivalled performance
- Continued compliance with evolving financial regulations
- Enhanced efficiency and effectiveness
- API-enabled automation and intra-stack coordination

SOLUTIONS

- FortiGate
- FortiManager

The trio of candidates was invited to participate in a highly structured proof of concept (POC) to determine performance under conditions that accurately emulated the company's operational environment.

A CLEAR WINNER

The intense POC was conducted over a two-month period, using detailed scripts to simulate challenging real-world scenarios and to measure the exact performance of each candidate against the predefined evaluation criteria. At the conclusion of testing and compilation of results, the Fortinet solution –encompassing multiple FortiGate next-generation firewall models – was the definitive winner.

The FortiGate is a high-performance network security appliance that adds a comprehensive set of capabilities – including intrusion prevention, application and user visibility, SSL inspection, and unknown threat detection – to traditional firewall competencies. Its performance in the firm's stringent POC testing confirmed the FortiGate range's unrivalled superiority in providing sophisticated protection in the hugely demanding environment typical of global financial services organizations.

DELIVERING ON EXPECTATIONS

The extensive collection of FortiGate models enables devices to be optimally sized to fit each individual location and throughput requirement. The scalability of the range also supports the firm's very active merger and acquisition strategy. Once deployed, each appliance is managed by a centralized Fortinet FortiManager implementation, providing the security team with single-pane-of-glass visibility across the entire network; elevating overall productivity and efficacy.

Proven during the POC, the FortiGate's ability to enable highly customizable segmentation is being used to the fullest. The firm has been able to implement a multi-tiered strategy that involves the utilization of 'micro cells' to facilitate precise tuning of security controls. One of FortiGate's great strengths is to deliver highly granular segmentation without compromising throughput or latency performance – frequently the 'Achilles' heel of many competitors.

UNITED AGAINST A COMMON FOE

Another significant benefit of the Fortinet approach comes from the Fortinet Security Fabric, enabling security solutions – for network, endpoint, application, data center, cloud, and access – to work together as an integrated and collaborative whole.

The number of components populating the firm's security stack reflects the complexity of its operations and the Security Fabric's intelligent framework provides an independently certified set of open API standards; enabling the seamless combination of diverse technologies to facilitate protection across the entire infrastructure. The Security Fabric utilizes extensive API libraries to enable a faster and more coordinated response to threats through the automated exchange of intelligence, actions and alerts.

A Cyber Security Executive commented, "Our partnership with Fortinet supports our business goals and enables our continued compliance with industry regulatory mandates. Fortinet provides us with the protection we need without compromising performance across our constantly expanding attack surface."



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