In the 1880s, engineer Francesco Bertazzoni noticed that trains arriving in his hometown of Guastalla, Northern Italy, were heated by a new type of wood-burning stove—one that was also used to cook for the train crew.

This innovation sparked his entrepreneurial imagination, and he set up a company to design stoves that combine engineering excellence with elegant design. Six generations later, Bertazzoni S.p.A. still designs kitchen appliances for the luxury market, employing 80 staff at its northern Italy headquarters and at locations across Europe and the United States.

With annual revenues of almost €100 million and further expansion on the horizon, Bertazzoni knew it needed to overhaul its IT infrastructure to secure its operations and support its international growth. The company hired a new IT manager to modernize and streamline the IT infrastructure, with a particular focus on protecting the company against internal and external cybersecurity threats.

An IT Infrastructure That Couldn't Keep Up with the Times

Bertazzoni had grown organically over several decades, and by 2017 many of its IT investments were becoming obsolete. Furthermore, design flaws of its network architecture left the company vulnerable to cyberattacks. For example, a critical weakness in the design of the fiber network meant a single localized attack could have left the entire company without network access.

With valuable intellectual property (IP) to protect, Bertazzoni needed to remove single points of failure in the network, protect end-user devices against more than just malware, and implement more stringent network access and email use policies. Moreover, the company needed to replace obsolete technologies with modern equivalents that could deliver efficiencies and scale with the business.

At first, Bertazzoni focused on modernizing the network infrastructure, evaluating solutions from several leading network equipment vendors. However, the manufacturer soon realized that integrating the different devices, and applying the requisite layers of security, would require a sizeable manual effort. For an IT team of just two people—neither of them cybersecurity specialists—that wasn’t an appealing prospect.

“"We chose the Fortinet Security Fabric because of the innovative way that it manages network and security together, allowing for easy monitoring and management of the IT environment.”

– Paolo Bertazzoni, CEO at Bertazzoni S.p.A.
At that point, one of Bertazzoni’s IT consultancy partners, Pc Pratica, proposed a different approach: a fully integrated network and security architecture using the Fortinet Security Fabric.

“Our partner proposed a completely integrated network and security architecture: the Fortinet Security Fabric. We were immediately thrilled at the possibilities it could offer,” says Fabrizio Schiatti, Information & Communication Technology Manager at Bertazzoni S.p.A.

A Fully Integrated Network and Security Architecture for Fast, Easy Management

Bertazzoni immediately saw that the combination of hardware and software in the Fortinet Security Fabric would deliver the elevated levels of IT security the company needed, while also supporting its strategy to streamline and modernize the IT infrastructure. The company invested in Fortinet hardware components including two FortiGate firewalls and two distribution switches, with each switch and firewall set up in a different room to provide redundancy, connected by a dedicated 80GB (40GB+40GB) MCLAG fiber link. Bertazzoni then implemented around 15 access switches and 35 FortiAP Wi-Fi access points for handheld computers/scanners.

On the software side, Bertazzoni invested in FortiClient for device security, FortiMail for email protection, FortiSandbox to detect and block zero-day threats, FortiWeb for website security, and FortiAuthenticator to enable two-factor authentication for administrator network access.

For Bertazzoni, one of the most attractive features of the Fortinet Security Fabric was the tight integration between the individual hardware components and the security management software layer. To enable this, FortiAnalyzer collects data from the network, and FortiManager presents it in a single console, allowing the whole network to be monitored and managed from a single pane of glass.

The implementation project was planned and managed by Pc Pratica, and the entire Fortinet Security Fabric was up and running at Bertazzoni in just three months.

“We chose the Fortinet Security Fabric because of the innovative way that it manages network and security together, allowing for easy monitoring and management of the IT environment,” states Schiatti.

Real-time Monitoring and Management to Detect and Eradicate Security Threats

Bertazzoni is now ready for growth with a modern, efficient network architecture protected by a robust security layer.

With a full view of the network in FortiManager, the IT team can easily see in real time which devices are connected to each port; which devices need to be patched—and automatically patch them—and which present a security risk. This topological view, which allows Bertazzoni to drill down into anomalies and other areas of interest, is especially useful for investigating the attack path for an intrusion attempt.

The Fortinet Security Fabric also means major time savings for Bertazzoni’s two-person IT team. Before Fortinet, the team spent around a week every two months updating device firmware, operating systems and software. Now, they can verify and update devices in real time, and only when an update is needed. Identifying security issues is easier and faster too, and in most cases, the fix just takes one click.

“We don’t have a large IT team, so without the Fortinet Security Fabric it would be impossible to be so precise and punctual in monitoring and updating devices,” explains Schiatti.

Business Impact

- Supported international expansion with secure architecture
- Saved time with simplified network management and monitoring
- Increased speed of detection and eradication of security threats
- Improved protection of company intellectual property and assets

Solutions

- FortiGate
- FortiSwitch
- FortiAP
- FortiClient
- FortiMail
- FortiAuthenticator
- FortiSandbox
- FortiWeb
- FortiAnalyzer
- FortiManager

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CASE STUDY | IT Innovation Supports Design and Engineering Innovation at Bertazzoni S.p.A.

A Bright Future for Bertazzoni on the International Stage

As Bertazzoni prepares to expand beyond Europe and the United States, it has a secure and scalable network architecture that can support the business as it grows. The ease and speed of managing the network also means Bertazzoni can stay lean in terms of IT resources.

In a world where new devices enter the workplace every day and the sophistication of cyberattacks is increasing, Bertazzoni can continue to grow, safe in the knowledge that its business and its unique design and engineering knowledge are protected.