



CASE STUDY

Identity Management Provider Finds Secure Path for Migration to the Oracle Cloud

Every day, the products and services developed by a U.S.-based security provider give millions of people across more than 100 countries access to both physical and digital places. Not surprisingly, then, security was a key concern when this company decided to shift its own Oracle E-Business Suite and other back-office applications to the Oracle Cloud Infrastructure (OCI). The company turned to Fortinet partner Centroid for assistance. Transitioning to an OCI-based architecture enabled the security company to streamline IT operations, reduce costs, and improve organizational agility and scalability. The deployment was possible only because Centroid developed an enterprise-level security infrastructure within OCI.

Shifting to OCI to Boost Business Agility and Cost Predictability

The security provider's solutions streamline identity management and secure communications for Internet-of-Things (IoT) devices. The firm has achieved broad success across key industries such as financial services, defense, and healthcare by combining cutting-edge security technology with ease of use for end-users.

To improve its own agility and make technology expenditures more predictable, the company decided to move the crucial data and processes in its on-premises Oracle E-Business Suite, and other back-office applications, to OCI. For assistance, the company turned to Centroid, a Texas-based services firm that provides consulting, deployment, and managed services to clients across the United States.

Centroid is a core Oracle business partner, repeatedly recognized as Oracle's North American Partner of the Year for engineered systems, Oracle technology, and Infrastructure-as-a-Service (IaaS). "We are one of only a handful of certified managed service providers [MSPs] for Oracle," explains Ajay Arora, Centroid's managing partner and chief technology officer (CTO).

The Obvious Choice for OCI Security

Security was a key concern in the transition. Because digital security services are a key element of the company's business, a successful data breach or other attack would be particularly damaging to its brand. Moreover, the company must comply with stringent security standards to retain its high-level clearances for federal and state governments, as well as to meet the compliance requirements of corporate customers in sensitive industries. Ensuring compliance, high availability, and end-to-end network security across on-premises and cloud workloads was business-critical.



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Details

Customer: U.S.-based provider of security products and services

Partner: Centroid

Industry: Technology

Business Impact

- Complies with security standards for state and local government clearances, as well as banking, healthcare, defense, and other sensitive sectors
- Supports higher user productivity through optimized performance of Oracle E-Business Suite and other back-office applications after move into Oracle Cloud Infrastructure (OCI)
- Boosts agility and scalability of the company's security infrastructure
- Streamlines management of the security infrastructure by consolidating oversight of OCI and on-premises security solutions in a single pane of glass

Centroid selected Fortinet end-to-end security solutions and FortiGate VM next-generation firewalls (NGFWs), in a virtual machine (VM) footprint and high-availability configuration, to secure traffic to and from the company's OCI instance, as well as for internal network segmentation. "There were several reasons that we selected Fortinet," says Navdeep Saini, senior manager, cloud platform, with Centroid. "The most obvious was that FortiGate was the most broadly supported next-generation firewall on OCI."

Centroid also liked the advanced security features and manageability of the FortiGate VM NGFWs. "Our client needed the single-pane-of-glass visibility that FortiGate VM NGFWs provide, while ensuring that no workloads from Business Unit A could talk to workloads from Business Unit B without going through the firewall," Saini adds. "In addition, the client needed analytics capabilities like those available in the FortiAnalyzer [logging and reporting solution]." The fact that Fortinet solutions support a multi-cloud environment might prove beneficial in the future, should the security company ever want to standardize solutions across not only its OCI and on-premises environments but also across other cloud services.

Finally, the security firm has used FortiGate NGFWs to protect its on-premises network for years. Staff were already familiar with the FortiGate technology, and they trusted the ability of Fortinet to secure their crucial cloud systems.

Enterprise Security in the Oracle Cloud

In the OCI infrastructure that Centroid architected and deployed, the security company's E-Business Suite and other back-office applications and data reside in eight development and production virtual cloud networks (VCNs). All traffic between these VCNs passes through two FortiGate VM Virtual Appliances, which reside in a ninth, transit VCN. Workloads are distributed between the FortiGate VM NGFWs using OCI load balancers.

Traffic going into or out of the security company's OCI instance passes from the FortiGate VM Virtual Appliances through an Oracle FastConnect connector, into a data center managed by a third party. A FortiWeb web application firewall in the data center further screens all traffic traveling to the broader internet. Alternatively, data can be routed to the company's internal offices. Either way, all data passing to or from any OCI-based network segment receives the advanced threat protection of an enterprise-grade NGFW.

The security company's IT team uses the FortiManager centralized management platform to monitor security across its OCI environment and its on-premises data center. "Having the security data consolidated in one place is very helpful, because this company has a lot of deployments being managed by a light and agile IT team," Saini says. "That would be much more difficult if they had to manage each FortiGate instance separately." Meanwhile, the FortiAnalyzer solution provides deep insights into advanced threats through single-pane-of-glass orchestration and response across the company's entire attack surface.

Provider Partnerships Streamline Security Deployment and Management

The security company is pleased with the improved performance of its solutions in the cloud. These improvements are mostly attributable to the hardware underlying OCI, which is considerably more modern than the company's on-premises servers. Nevertheless, Saini says, the Fortinet solutions enable this company to take utmost advantage of the high-speed hardware.

"A lot of traffic passes through the FortiGate VM NGFWs and FortiWeb," he says. "Even within the corporate network, user traffic passes through the FortiGate VM NGFWs to access resources in the cloud. We have never experienced any performance issues—no problems with high CPU usage—and we have never run out of any resource. The FortiGate VM firewalls are never in the way, as some firewalls tend to be."

Solutions

- FortiGate
- FortiGate VM
- FortiWeb
- FortiManager
- FortiAnalyzer

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Running the FortiGate VM NGFWs in OCI also improves the agility and scalability of the company's security infrastructure, and the speed with which Centroid can deploy new NGFWs. "Using the new OCI-native FortiGate VM from the OCI Marketplace makes resource deployment very easy and very smooth," Saini says. At the same time, the combination of the FortiGate VM Virtual Appliance and FortiManager streamlines ongoing oversight for the security company's IT team.

Throughout the deployment, Centroid turned to Fortinet Support whenever an issue arose with the security solutions. "Fortinet Support absolutely rocks," Saini emphasizes. "Every product deployment has some issues, so we were not surprised we had to call support a few times. Every time, a support person was on the phone helping us within five minutes."

Ultimately, the security company is saving money and staff time, and its back-office infrastructure is more agile and more scalable than ever before. It could not have achieved these benefits of the cloud if the IT team were not confident their data and applications would be secure. The close relationships among Fortinet, Oracle, and Centroid made this transition possible.

"Migrating any business-critical application, including Oracle E-Business Suite, from on-premises to the cloud can come with some inherent natural challenges," concludes Saini. "Companies can leverage Centroid's many years of experience with effective migrations, including building centralized security policies and controls around private and virtual cloud networks. The investment that Fortinet has made with Oracle gives them an edge in OCI."

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