



CASE STUDY

Supermarket Chain Secures Business in the Cloud



In 2019, Grupo Carvalho stood as one of the biggest supermarket chains in the Brazilian state of Piauí, with 46 stores across Piauí and Maranhão states. Following a period of strategic analysis, the company announced it would be undertaking a spinoff in June 2019. Two new companies, one of them Grupo R Carvalho, with 22 outlets, were formed. In addition to supermarkets, the group is active across the wholesale industry, agribusiness, and other areas. In all, there are 284 outlets contributing to approximately 800 million reais (approximately US\$140 million) in total annual sales.

However, after the spinoff, the company needed to overhaul its entire large-scale infrastructure, including its technological component. Among these necessary activities, 48 database servers required migration to the cloud. Having selected the Oracle Cloud, the issue of security was the next major decision point for the company.

“100% of the business revolves around data. We had thousands of accesses taking place every second across all its systems each day. With transactions occurring simultaneously at every point of sale, everything must be secure against hacking,” says Julio Pires, IT Manager of Grupo R Carvalho.

Securing the Oracle Cloud Environment

Prior to the implementation, Grupo Carvalho used firewalls in tandem with older-generation equipment. However, these posed several problems. When the company began searching for a cloud platform on which to host its servers, the IT team used the opportunity to find the best the market had to offer in terms of security. “We looked at different options and chose Fortinet, which had the best solution, including a strong recommendation from Oracle itself, who guaranteed that the system could be tailored seamlessly to the process of switching the platform to the cloud,” explains Pires.

Fortinet’s partner, IT Protect, implemented the project. The solution included the deployment of FortiGate VM in the Oracle Cloud environment. This was to provide protection between servers, and to create a secure communication channel from the cloud to the data center, allowing information to be exchanged more securely. Two FortiGates were also installed at the data center located in Teresina, Piauí. The high degree of success in the implementation also led the group to evaluate other security needs, which may be addressed by Fortinet solutions.

“All the architecture is integrated with high availability. Nothing accesses the cloud without first being verified by the Fortinet solution. This gives me true peace of mind. Whenever there is any attempt at an intrusion, it blocks it perfectly. It is an extremely capable, user-friendly tool,” says Pires.

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Details

Customer: Grupo R Carvalho

Industry: Retail

Location: Brazil

Business Impact

- Simplified management and achieved integrated security in a hybrid environment
- Secured migration of 48 database servers to the Oracle Cloud
- Increased security and ease of use throughout the entire cloud-based employee data and billing chain
- Streamlined reporting and preventive actions with a boost to network performance

A Unified Solution Providing Visibility and Ease of Use

One of Fortinet's differentiators was its streamlining of a unified solution with a single management and display dashboard. All the other options considered by Grupo R Carvalho required at least two interfaces, adding layers of extra complexity.

Fortinet's single management panel both integrates and displays the Fortinet Security Fabric, with native visibility and control right inside the cloud. This is coupled with the FortiGate shared responsibility model, which works between the data center and the Oracle Cloud, providing full information on the exchange of traffic between these two environments.

Continues Pires, "As soon as Fortinet started working with us, all of our processes became very easy. I can see everything happening and everything that is being blocked by the firewall. At the start of the month, I can generate various reports and list all the IPs attempting to hack or access content in a way that might harm the business, something that was very hard for me to do in the past. In this way, I can reduce cyberattacks and boost my network performance. I can now be preventive, and not just reactive like I used to be. This is what resonates with me most."

Grupo R Carvalho's IT department configured the security architecture jointly with Fortinet's partner IT Protect and Fortinet. "The partnership between IT Protect and Fortinet made all the difference. They were right there during every phase of the project, and still are now that the solution is installed. They gave me the confidence I needed. I am truly satisfied, and so is my entire IT team. The atmosphere here is different, everyone is very happy," says Pires.

Solutions

- FortiGate
- FortiGate VM

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