

CASE STUDY

Leading Online Broker Secures Its Network Infrastructure With Fortinet Security Fabric in a Multi-cloud Environment

Over 18 years, InvertirOnline (IOL) has established its reputation as one of the most important brokers in Argentina and the only company that has been 100% digital since the beginning. The company was born as a fintech startup looking to offer a simple and practical way to operate in the stock market from any personal device. Thanks to its smart business vision and positive results, it caught the attention of one of Argentina's leading financial holdings, Grupo Supervielle, who acquired the company in 2018 to develop a strong offering in the online trading business. Today, the company is part of a wide-ranging group that includes banks, mutual funds, insurance, and vehicle financing companies.

IOL's growth the last few years has been exponential, especially with the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, which led many people to prefer fully online models of investing in the stock market. At the time of its acquisition by Grupo Supervielle, it had 20,000 accounts; now, it has an estimated 500,000 clients operating through a proprietary trading platform developed by the company. InvertirOnline is one of the three leading brokers operating in Argentine Exchanges and Markets (ByMA) in terms of transactions.

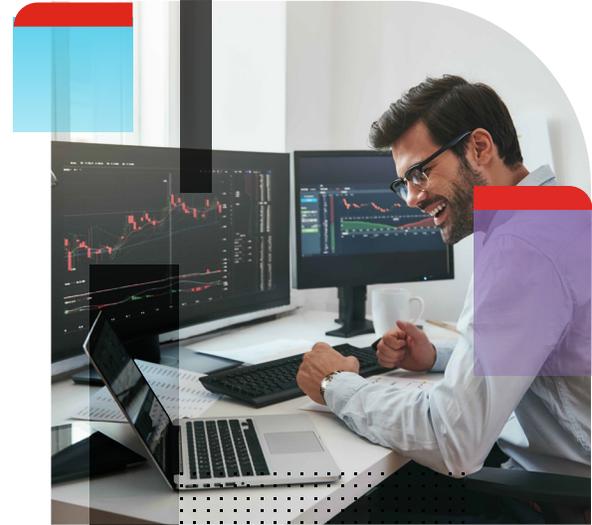
As a company that handles investments and confidential information, the security of its online platform is the fundamental pillar of its financial services. To IOL, it is essential that the operations and movements in its clients' investment accounts stay fully protected.

A Comprehensive Communication and Security Platform To Meet Growth Vision

In 2018, IOL began a strategic expansion of its physical, technological, and human resources infrastructure to support the company's accelerated growth and to meet the compliance requirements of being part of a major financial group. The company doubled the number of employees in 2020, with collaborators in almost the entire country, and projecting another double increase in employees in the medium term.

This growth also represented a major challenge in upgrading the company's networking infrastructure and IT security model. IOL had network connectivity equipment that had been designed several years ago and no longer met the company's new IT requirements. It was also essential to migrate to a comprehensive communication and security platform.

"We were looking for a complete solution that could meet all our networking and security needs. We chose Fortinet because it ensured compliance with new regulations, as well as facilitated network control and provided secure information management," says Joseph Calderón, infrastructure coordinator at IOL.



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Details

Customer: InvertirOnline

Industry: Financial Services

Location: Argentina

Business Impact

- Simplified network management through an intuitive, interactive, and visual platform
- Optimized performance of local and WAN networks with the ability to offer secure remote work to multiple users

Integrated and Secure Implementation in a Multi-cloud Environment

The first objective of the migration was to interconnect the Buenos Aires and Tucumán branches since they were disconnected and could not adequately share information. The company has a 100% cloud-based service, supported in a hybrid cloud model in Azure and AWS, which demands consistent and secure connectivity, along with resource-sharing availability at any time. The full integration with this multi-cloud environment enhanced users' experience based on improved application performance and security.

IOL implemented a Fortinet Secure software-defined wide-area networking (SD-WAN) solution based on FortiGate, integrated with a Fortinet Secure SD-Branch solution based on FortiSwitch and FortiAP at the branch offices to optimize wireless connectivity. This networking and security platform enables the company to have a main virtual private network (VPN) and a backup VPN that operate redundantly and support high demand. This infrastructure also supports a secure shared-resources network.

The IT staff can quickly integrate the multi-cloud environment of Azure and AWS from the Fortinet technology dashboard, centrally manage the entire network, and configure multiple security rules that they were previously unable to deploy. "Unified administration is one of Fortinet's main benefits, as it is possible to handle policies, reporting, and management from a single point," highlights Calderon.

IOL also uses FortiAnalyzer for threat analysis and logging, through which it obtains incident logs and reports when needed, and receives updated real-time data on worldwide cybersecurity events. The implementation of the networking and security platform was carried out by Allkom, a Fortinet partner.

"Fortinet provides a very stable and accurate technology that helps us to fully protect our multi-cloud environment. The platform is intuitive, interactive, and highly visual, which helps for centralized management. This provides us with security and peace of mind while we are working," says Calderón.

An additional challenge for the IT team was finding an option to allow secure remote work, not only because of the growing demand for this model inside the company but also because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The previous communications infrastructure did not allow the company to guarantee high-quality service for remote working and the users suffered many connectivity issues. Using the Fortinet platform, it is possible to have all users connected simultaneously, without failures. The integration of FortiClient advanced endpoint protection also allowed unified access logs. Today, employees only need their domain username and password to connect from the offices or remote locations. They can access either the Wi-Fi networks in the branch offices on their personal computers or from anywhere when they log in via VPN through FortiClient. "Today, we have a network solution offering transparent connectivity, allowing users to connect from any location seamlessly and securely," expresses Calderón.

Business Impact (contd.)

- Improved security performance and threat blocking processes
- Secure and transparent connectivity from anywhere with Secure SD-WAN
- Full integration with multi-cloud environment of Azure and AWS

Solutions

- Fortinet Secure SD-WAN
- Fortinet Secure SD-Branch
- FortiGate
- FortiSwitch
- FortiAP
- FortiAnalyzer
- FortiClient

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“Now, we manage all our networking and security systems with Fortinet. The solution supports us in performing tasks that we used to have to do manually. Going forward, we can extend this level of security to other areas and sustain the company’s accelerated growth. I can be confident because the platform works and fulfills all configured requirements in an automated way, with or without our assistance,” Calderón emphasizes.

IOL’s choice of Fortinet was also motivated by cost concerns. “Fortinet is an affordable solution in terms of technology and implementation, compared to other brands. This advantage has allowed us to bring costs down and deliver additional services to the users,” the manager adds.



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