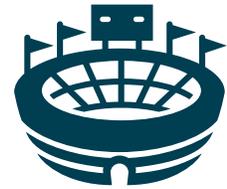**FORTINET** | **SECURECYBER DEFENSE**

CASE STUDY

Managed Solution Positions Sports Team for the Cybersecurity Win

Professional sports franchises have become very sophisticated in the ways they harness technology to give fans the best game experience possible. Venues are increasingly using intricate camera and sensor systems to record every action throughout each moment of the game. Then sophisticated analytics tools enable the teams to precisely assess each player's physical abilities and statistics. Team managers can use this data to inform decisions about which players to sign or trade and how much money to offer them. Coaches can tap into these systems to plan game strategies and identify injuries or other physical issues in opposing players.

Needless to say, the data stored in these systems is highly sensitive. A data breach could put players' personal information at risk, undermine a team's competitiveness, or provide illegal advantage in sports gambling. Cybersecurity is a critical consideration for professional sports teams, and some leagues have made defense against digital attacks a top priority.

Playing for Victory in Cybersecurity

For one team in a major U.S. sports league, those efforts entail not only protecting crucial data such as financials and proprietary player information but also providing secure connectivity for the various events held at the team's arena—ranging from ice-skating shows to concerts to bull riding. Most of the events come with a rider to the contract that specifies network and communications technologies the organizers require in different locations around the venue.

For example, concerts might set up a bar on the floor of the arena that requires point-of-sale terminals. Other events might require high-speed press connectivity in unusual locations throughout the venue. All these connections must be secure, to protect sensitive data such as the financial information of attendees who purchase goods and services during an event.

Several years ago, the sports team realized its internal staff had neither the time nor the expertise to properly secure the arena's wired and Wi-Fi networks. After a rigorous due diligence process, the organization decided to contract with managed security service provider (MSSP) Secure Cyber Defense, based in Miamisburg, Ohio. That firm recommended replacing a legacy firewall with a FortiGate next-generation firewall (NGFW).

> *"The FortiGate solution is best-of-breed; we know it is going to do its job. Secure Cyber Defense understands FortiGate, inside and out. This is a great partnership and a great solution to have onsite."*
>
> – *IT Manager, Major U.S. Professional Sports Team*

Details

Customer: Major U.S. Professional Sports Team

Fortinet Partner: Secure Cyber Defense, LLC

Industry: Hospitality/Entertainment

Business Impact

- Offers IT leaders peace of mind by providing best-of-breed protection near the network edge

- Eliminates need for full-time cybersecurity management position, resulting in cost savings

- Facilitates better customer service from IT group, for both sports team and third-party events

Effective Security at the Network Edge

Now, a FortiGate NGFW stands guard near the edge of the sports team's network. Secure Cyber Defense is leveraging all the NGFW's built-in inspection and detection capabilities. It regulates traffic entering and leaving the network and investigates alarms and alerts from the organization's other security solutions.

"We chose the Fortinet solution because it could perform all the next-generation inspection for the stadium traffic, as well as protecting the network," explains Shawn Waldman, CEO of Secure Cyber Defense. "In addition, certain requirements of the sports team meant that the incumbent, non-Fortinet solution needed to stay in place. We were able to install the FortiGate appliance in-line with the incumbent firewall, and it was fully functional and inspecting traffic within minutes."

Secure Cyber Defense monitors and manages its FortiGate infrastructure using the Fortinet Fabric Management Center. Comprised of the proven FortiManager and FortiAnalyzer solutions, the Fabric Management Center simplifies network and security operations through automated provisioning and configuration management, centralized security device and policy management, compliance management, and analytics.

"Pairing FortiAnalyzer and FortiManager with all our managed solutions is paramount," Waldman says. "Those two products give us complete visibility into current and historical alarms and traffic. We also make extensive use of the APIs available from Fortinet to speed up resolutions and data lookup. We have recently brought FortiSOAR into the fold for our managed detection and response, further speeding up investigation and exploding our response capabilities."

The FortiSOAR security orchestration, automation, and response solution provides extensive log aggregation capabilities, incident response playbooks, and guided remediation. These enable Secure Cyber Defense to handle the deluge of security alerts faster and more accurately, improving service not only for this sports team but for all its clients.

Solutions

- FortiGate
- FortiAnalyzer
- FortiManager
- FortiSOAR

"Because we have the FortiGate NGFW onsite and the Secure Cyber Defense team mitigating any issues that may arise, I am confident that they will keep our network secure, whatever may happen. I now have peace of mind."

– IT Manager, Major U.S. Professional Sports Team

Efficiency Benefits for All Involved

The sports team achieved a number of benefits through its relationship with the MSSP. "The Secure Cyber Defense team calls me if there is an issue that our internal staff should address," says the sports team's IT manager. "If needed, they may guide me through to the resolution. They have been a great asset. Because we have the FortiGate NGFW onsite and the Secure Cyber Defense team mitigating any issues that may arise, I am confident that they will keep our network secure, whatever may happen. I now have peace of mind."

The IT manager estimates that if internal staff were still responsible for overseeing the organization's legacy firewall and monitoring log files, he would have to add a full-time security professional to his team. "The FortiGate-and-MSSP solution saves us a lot of money and resources locally," he says.

Outsourcing routine security activities enables internal staff to focus their full attention on providing the best possible IT service for the sports team and the various events that come to its arena. "Not having to worry internally about cybersecurity gives us the ability to provide additional services around the setup and customization of our technology support for incoming events, as well as other soft touches that lead to happier event customers," the IT manager says.

"The relationship between Secure Cyber Defense and Fortinet has made the entire solution seamless," he concludes. "The FortiGate solution is best-of-breed; we know it is going to do its job. Secure Cyber Defense understands FortiGate, inside and out. This is a great partnership and a great solution to have onsite."

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