FORTINET

CASE STUDY

Global Leader in Cable Manufacturing and Solutions Rebuilds Network for Secure, Cloud-first, Digital Transformation

With origins dating back over 140 years to the birth of the cable industry itself, Prysmian Group continues to carry the torch as a leading innovator and today is one of the largest global suppliers of cable products and services to multiple sectors including energy, telecommunications, construction, and manufacturing.

Following a number of strategic mergers and acquisitions, the group now operates in over 50 countries around the world and employs more than 28,000 staff across 200 locations, including 104 production plants and 25 research and development centers.

With recorded revenue of over 10 billion euros in 2020, Prysmian Group is listed not only on the FTSE MIB index of the Milan Stock Exchange but also on the prestigious FTSE4Good Global Index, which recognizes companies that demonstrate ethical and transparent governance practices and implement strong sustainability policies across their business.

Around 800 of the group's staff are based in its home country of Italy, including the team responsible for global network and telco services.

Rebuilding for a Secure Digital Transformation

With a cable solutions portfolio serving a range of needs from offshore wind farms to the interconnection of the latest 5G installations, Prysmian Group's evolving global IT infrastructure has to support a prodigious rate of innovation and new development across multiple technological disciplines from high-voltage submarine power transmission cables to high-capacity optical fibers.

And with aggressive goals not only for revenue and profitability but also for environmental sustainability, the group's network needs to be both highly flexible and highly efficient.

As is often the case following rapid growth through mergers and acquisitions, the group's previous network was an amalgamation of multiple heterogeneous environments that lacked overall visibility and control—especially from a security standpoint.

"We knew that in order to support the agility required of the business, we would need to rebuild the network from a cloud-first perspective," explains Salvatore Lanzilotti, Prysmian global network & telco services manager, "but we also realized that such a transformation would require a whole new approach to security."

With over 106 million euros invested in research and development and its 900+ developers filing thousands of new patents each year, the need for a consistent, stringent security posture with the highest possible levels of reliability and resilience was paramount.

Another major challenge was the broad range of connectivity options that needed to be supported for different countries around the world, and across vastly different types of operations, from manufacturing plants with their OT environments to cutting-edge research and development centers running highly complex, data-intensive models and simulations.

Prysmian Group

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Details

Customer: Prysmian Group

Industry: Manufacturing

Location: Italy

Business Impact

- Improved flexibility, scalability, and management of IT resources

- Enhanced security

- Greater control and visibility of global applications and data

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Prysmian Group's Next-generation Security Infrastructure

After evaluating a short list of solutions, Prysmian Group selected Fortinet and the project began to deploy around 400 FortiGate next-generation firewalls (NGFWs) to secure both the wide-area network (WAN) and local-area network (LAN) edges. FortiGate NGFWs combine dedicated, purpose-built security processors with threat-intelligence services from FortiGuard Labs to deliver top-rated security and high-performance threat protection.

A key factor in Prysmian Group's decision to select the FortiGate NGFW was the broad range of threat protection capabilities supported—in particular, its powerful intrusion prevention system (IPS), anti-malware, and the rich set of web and application filtering functions.

Another benefit was the availability of functionally equivalent virtual form factors of the FortiGate and FortiSIEM solutions, allowing Prysmian to deploy a number of virtual NGFWs as well as the FortiSIEM virtual machines (VMs) (1 supervisor, 3 workers, and 4 collectors) on their Amazon Web Services (AWS) cloud infrastructure.

With the addition of the FortiManager and FortiAnalyzer solutions, network administrators gained powerful network management, automation, and response, with broad visibility and granular device and role-based administration across the entire infrastructure.

The support of local dedicated technical account managers from Fortinet allowed Prysmian Group's global network and telco services team to start protecting their distributed organization with a consistent, comprehensive suite of security capabilities and common, centrally administered security policies.

"Within a dynamic cloud-first architecture such as ours, the key is to have an intelligent, responsive security infrastructure that can adapt to the changing application and service requirements," adds Lanzilotti, "and so the Fortinet Security Fabric solution, with its integrated event correlation, automation, and centralized management and reporting, was the perfect fit for us."

Due to the scale of Prysmian Group's network and the sheer number of devices from which security events could potentially be emitted, the team realized it would also need to enhance its event management capabilities.

"We wanted to ensure that our team would not be deluged with security alerts from the many thousands of devices across the network," explains Lanzilotti.

"FortiGate became the center of our worldwide infrastructure and helped us to centralize and automate the management of our firewalls, ensuring advanced inspection capabilities and meeting our security expectations in terms of protection and visibility."

Ready for the Future

Encouraged by the positive results achieved already, the group is now looking to further simplify the network infrastructure, utilizing the Fortinet Secure SD-WAN solution, natively available in the same FortiGate NGFW platform already deployed, without requiring additional licensing.

With features such as application awareness, dynamic path selection, and zero-touch provisioning, Prysmian Group should be able to further increase business agility and reduce costs without compromising security.

Solutions

- FortiGate
- FortiGate VM
- FortiManager
- FortiAnalyzer
- FortiSIEM

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