FORTINET

Government Agency Implements Network Access Control for Mobile Device Access

هيئة المساحة الجيولوجية السعودية
SAUDI GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
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Introduction

Saudi Geological Survey (SGS) is a government agency that provides geological surveys and mineral exploration, as well as monitoring of environmental hazards including earthquake and volcano activities for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. With approximately 1,500 employees tasked with going to various and often remote sites, SGS has 18 locations where mobile technology is increasingly used to perform necessary tasks.

The Challenge of Providing Secure BYOD and Guest Access

As SGS experienced expanding numbers of mobile, bring-your-own-device (BYOD), guest, and contractor devices accessing its network, it became critical to automate its manual provisioning and tighten security. SGS had only port-level security and wanted to add full visibility and control of every endpoint on the network. In addition, a variety of geological and environmental equipment is used only intermittently at SGS. With over 1,500 users and 4,000 endpoints, including laptops, desktops, virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI) clients, printers, and IP phones, SGS was looking for a solution that automatically checks each device for security compliance before allowing network access.

SGS wanted a solution that would seamlessly integrate with a proxy server configuration. They decided to do a proof-of-concept (POC) test using the FortNAC[1] network access control solution due to its reputation for easy integration and management. At the end of the POC, SGS chose to implement the FortiNAC solution because of its success in three key areas: ease of integration, cost, and simplified management.

Straightforward NAC Implementation Provides Results

The FortiNAC solution now provides comprehensive endpoint visibility and control throughout the SGS Jeddah Campus. During installation, SGS continued to be impressed with customer support. There were limited SGS IT staff available, and they had limited knowledge of network access control. "They were there for us at every step of the installation," explains Sameh A. Al-Nakhbi, manager of network systems section at SGS. "The online support was very helpful and fast, and when we needed some advice on integration, the support was excellent."

> *"We are very pleased with the FortiNAC solution. It simplifies provisioning and streamlines BYOD and guest access. We can now see and respond to threats in real time—this is a huge improvement."*
>
> – *Sameh A. Al-Nakhbi, Manager of Network Systems Section, SGS*

Details

Customer: Saudi Geological Survey (SGS)

Industry: Government

Location: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

SGS is excited about improvements resulting from the implementation of the FortiNAC solution:

- **Streamlined provisioning.** Moving from manual to automatic provisioning saved IT staff time and simplified the process for guests, BYOD users, and contractors.

- **Endpoint compliance.** With some equipment being used only sporadically, the FortiNAC solution now ensures that each device meets software compliance requirements before it is allowed access to the network.

- **Tighter security.** Full endpoint visibility has enabled SGS to find under-secured wireless access points and remove them from the network.

- **Real-time visibility and proactive mitigation.** The FortiNAC solution lets SGS see any threats in real time, while simultaneously taking steps to automatically mitigate and quarantine suspect devices.

"We are very pleased with the FortiNAC solution. It simplifies provisioning and streamlines BYOD and guest access," says Al-Nakhbi. "We can now see and respond to threats in real time—this is a huge improvement. In addition, we were really impressed with post-sales support; it tells you a lot about how a company values their customers."

Business Impact

- Reduced risk from unpatched endpoints

- Easier identification and removal of noncompliant equipment

- Simplified network access for users and streamlined IT workload through automated provisioning

Solution

- FortiNAC

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[1] Formerly Bradford Networks.

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January 28, 2020 7:50 PM

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