

SAUDI GEOLOGICAL SURVEY IMPLEMENTS NETWORK ACCESS CONTROL FOR MOBILE DEVICE ACCESS



INTRODUCTION

Saudi Geological Survey (SGS) is a government agency that provides geological surveys and mineral exploration, as well as monitors 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, BYOD, guest and contractor devices accessing its network, it became critical to automate its manual provisioning and tighten security. SGS only had 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 only used intermittently at SGS. With over 1,500 users and 4,000 endpoints, including laptops, desktops, VDIs, 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 Fortinet NAC (network access control) solution due to its reputation for easy integration and management. At the end of the POC, SGS chose to implement the Fortinet NAC because of its success in three key areas: ease of integration, cost and simplified management.

STRAIGHTFORWARD NAC IMPLEMENTATION PROVIDES RESULTS

NAC 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

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– Sameh A. Al-Nakhbi,
Manager of Network Systems
Section at SGS



هيئة المساحة الجيولوجية السعودية
SAUDI GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

DETAILS

CUSTOMER: Saudi Geological Survey (SGS)

INDUSTRY: Government Agency

LOCATION: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

BUSINESS IMPACT

- **Reduced risk from endpoints** – All devices must now be running current versions of security software and meet minimum OS patch requirements before connecting to the network
- **Full visibility** – NAC helps SGS simplify the identification of equipment running outdated software, so these devices can be secured
- **Simplified provisioning** – Automated provisioning simplifies device access and streamlines the IT workload

SOLUTIONS

- Network Access Control

network access control. “They were there for us at every step of the installation,” explained 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.”

SGS is excited about improvements resulting from the implementation of NAC:

- **Streamlined provisioning** – Moving from manual to automatic provisioning saved IT staff time and simplified the process for guests, BYOD and contractors.
- **Endpoint compliance** – With some equipment being used only sporadically, NAC now ensures that each device meets software compliance requirements before it is allowed access to the network.

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- **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** – NAC lets SGS see any threats in real-time while simultaneously taking steps to automatically mitigate and quarantine suspect devices.

“We are very pleased with NAC. It simplifies provisioning and streamlines BYOD and guest access,” said 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.”



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