

FROM TECHNOLOGICAL OBSOLESCENCE TO A ROBUST AND SECURE ENVIRONMENT BASED ON RELIABILITY AND AGILITY



The Veracruz State Government, led by Governor Miguel Angel Yunes Linares, inherited a multifaceted operation with multiple dependencies and entities, as well as a nearly 10-year lag in technological infrastructure. There were expired licenses, delayed maintenance services, lack of bandwidth and high costs for perimeter security services, the vast majority of which were outdated.

Sebastian Silva Sanchez took over as Director-General of Technological Innovation, responsible for leading the Veracruz State Government's digital agenda. He faced the challenge of modernizing and standardizing the government's cybersecurity strategy in a short and unusual two-year administration period. After a thorough evaluation, Fortinet was deemed the appropriate company to help respond to these challenges, so it began equipment implementation and engineering deployment.

"An important element, which we took seriously throughout the process, was the establishment of a legal framework to regulate all those responsible for technology across dependencies and entities, aimed at standardizing the perimeter security model and facilitating shared managed services and the application of waterfall policies," explained Jesus Eugenio Garcia Martinez, deputy director of IT Policy. "Seven new IT guidelines were developed with this in mind, all focused on standardizing solutions. Fortinet played a fundamental role in this."

RELIABILITY AND SIMPLIFIED ADMINISTRATION

The project involved integrating FortiGate Next-Generation Firewalls (NGFW), a virtual private network (VPN), IPS, AV, web filtering, application control and secure access. Fortinet Security Fabric's integration capabilities enabled easy centralized management, unifying security solutions, analysis and occurrence correlation.

The installation for the Fortinet Security Fabric-based solution in a central cluster was coordinated with the Secretariat of Finance and Planning (SEFIPLAN) through the governor's Deputy Directorate of Technological Infrastructure, along with additional Fortinet appliances in each of SEFIPLAN's locations across the state. This established a secure and agile

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– Sebastian Silva Sanchez,
Director-General of Technological
Innovation for the Veracruz State
Government



VERACRUZ
Gobierno del Estado

DETAILS

CUSTOMER: Veracruz State Government

INDUSTRY: Government

LOCATION: Veracruz, Mexico

BUSINESS IMPACT

- Optimize operational spending and ensure protection for all information traveling across Veracruz's State Network (REDVER)
- Strengthen data link services and reduce costs
- Provide protection using advanced security technology, with central and simple administration
- Reliably manage more than 23,000 employee and 22,000 citizen requests through digital channels on a daily basis

SOLUTIONS

- FortiGate
- FortiManager
- FortiWeb
- FortiAnalyzer

communications system, allowing the State to deploy an integral management system for all branches. With this, more than 20,000 computers and five high-availability data centers were protected, located in the Finance building, Government Palace and Secretaries of Public Safety, Health and Education.

“Using FortiGate appliances integrated with other solutions, such as FortiWeb, FortiManager and FortiAnalyzer, to manage network and equipment provides us with visibility over transactional demands and enables us to apply policies from a central point, thus decreasing the time invested in operational tasks and network administration,” said Silva.

According to Silva, “The advantages of Fortinet’s security solution have also been tangible for internal users, as it has increased network reliability by eliminating incidents that could put service operations at risk. It has allowed faster access to both the internet and institutional applications.” Another important aspect is reduced response times for administrating user access. “The level of user satisfaction is also reflected by a lower number of complaint reports regarding lack of service or slow applications, ensuring website safety and navigation speed,” added Silva.

Additionally, Fortinet appliances were installed in all State Treasury Offices carrying out tax collection tasks and sending information to the central system, resulting in improved user experiences for citizens while they are being served.

INVESTMENT EFFICIENCY

Strengthening its technological capabilities was not the Veracruz State Government’s only objective during its technological renovation. Taking better advantage of the financial resources assigned to technology, IT and telecommunications was also necessary, and Fortinet was vital in helping it accomplish this.

The Fortinet solutions and Security Fabric allow the government to fully leverage bandwidth performance and ensure privacy for isolated networks at a logical level in specified locations and State Treasury

Offices. This reduced the cost of global contracts for internet services, allowing the administration to save more than \$7 million. Only four of seven contracts needed to be maintained.

“We found a serious problem in the technological infrastructure and service when we first arrived. We cannot have a public administration with a digital lag nowadays, because it is the cornerstone for the rest of the government

sectors,” emphasized Silva. “Fortinet was the right ally to help us achieve two objectives, even though one seemed constrained by the other: modernizing operating conditions in all locations and building a foundation upon which upgrades in each area, including public safety, health, education, etc., could be carried out in a reliable and development-centric environment.”

“ THE ADVANTAGES OF FORTINET’S SECURITY SOLUTION HAVE ALSO BEEN TANGIBLE FOR INTERNAL USERS, AS IT HAS INCREASED NETWORK RELIABILITY BY ELIMINATING INCIDENTS THAT COULD PUT SERVICE OPERATIONS AT RISK. IT HAS ALLOWED FASTER ACCESS TO BOTH THE INTERNET AND INSTITUTIONAL APPLICATIONS. ”



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