Firewalls of the Future

High level of security through automation

PROFIDATA

"Managed firewall services from T-Systems minimize the workload of our internal IT team and ensure a sustained high level of security for Profidata."

Martin Frolik, Member of the Executive Board, Profidata

The Profidata Group, based in Urdorf, Switzerland, is a software provider specializing in the financial services industry. The company has been developing and selling outstanding solutions and services for wealth and investment management for 35 years. The Swiss clients are located in the major European and Asian financial centers. Accordingly, Profidata is also internationally positioned with its seven companies. The group has twelve locations in Switzerland, Germany, the United Kingdom, Luxembourg, Singapore, Romania and Portugal in order to optimally serve customers and continuously develop its software – customer focus and a best-in-class mindset is in the company's DNA. XENTIS has earned the company an excellent reputation in the banking industry. The unique solution for the integrated and modular investment management system manages assets worth more than one trillion € of for financial service providers. In 2019, Profidata decided to restructure its internal IT services.

In doing so, the company wanted to focus more on its core business: customer support and software development. Internal basic IT services that do not add value should be outsourced to reliable external partners who will continue to provide the services at a high level quality.

Overview

- Takeover of the firewall operation
- Standardization of the firewall landscape (Checkpoint Appliances)
- Extensive automation
- Establishment of a uniform and high level of security in the company
- No investment, cost reduction
- Add-on: Email Protect Pro

·T··Systems·

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Reference in Detail

Challenge

Security services play an essential role in the financial services sector. Profidata therefore opted for an experienced security partner for outsourcing its basic security services: T-Systems. T-Systems was not only to take over company-wide firewall management, but also to update the firewall infrastructure and modernize management at the same time. Profidata wanted an efficient security infrastructure that supports international collaboration, and also enables the internal IT department to easily administrate the firewall landscape (hybrid operating model).

Solution

With T-Systems' Managed Firewall Services, Profidata receives a firewall solution from a single source. Locations with outdated firewall appliances receive new, high-performance state-of-the-art firewall appliances with software defined functionalities from the T-Systems Partner Checkpoint. These enable extensive automation of firewall management. All devices at all

locations can now be managed via a central console in Switzerland. T-Systems provides managed services for incident, problem, change, configuration and release management of the firewall landscape during office hours — including monitoring and reporting. In addition, a customer order portal enables Profidata's internal IT department to initiate changes to the firewalls independently via a web interface. The smart automation then checks whether it is a standard change or whether a complex change process is started. In the first case, the change is implemented directly; in the latter case, the change is only implemented after a specialist from T-Systems has reviewed it. In addition to Managed Firewall Services, Profidata has also opted for E-Mail Protect Pro from T-Systems. The email security solution works hand in hand with the firewalls and automatically filters incoming mail using black and white lists. The managed cloud solution monitors mail traffic and successfully blocks virtual threats such as viruses, spam and ransomware. It also prevents complex, effective attacks on critical IT infrastructures and confidential data, so-called Advanced Persistent Threats (APT).

Customer benefits

"T-Systems considered our requirements seriously and designed the right solution," said Martin Frolik, member of the executive board at Profidata. Profidata now has a homogeneous infrastructure for IT security. The harmonized landscape reduces complexity and allows modern management; changes and troubleshooting are now simplified. "This significantly reduces the workload of our internal IT management - thus we have achieved the central goal of this project." Standardization allows uniform and consistent reporting across all locations and guarantees that all Group subsidiaries have an identical level of security. Specialized on-site personnel to support the firewall appliances are no longer necessary. The T-Systems management team is supporting Profidata with its expertise. However, the hybrid operating model also allows Profidata's internal IT team to access the management console to initiate their own changes as needed. This means Profidata still has a high degree of flexibility and responsiveness - since the team is familiar with Checkpoint, there is no need to develop new expertise amongst the team. The operating model and the new architecture ensure a high-quality security service. At the same time, T-Systems and Checkpoint are continuously developing the firewall landscape together with the customer. Profidata is thus well positioned to continue to operate its business with financial service providers in a solid and secure manner despite constantly increasing cyber risks.

Other advantages:
- Workload minimization of internal resources
- Reduction of operational risks
- No investments
- High degree of automation
- Dedicated Account Manager and Service Delivery Manager
- Solution can be scaled at any time