



Migros Relies on Fortinet

Perimeter Protection For Entire Group Network

Situation

Migros is Switzerland's largest retailer and a Global 500 company. With 50 companies and 84,000 employees, the Migros Group generates an annual turnover of 25 billion CHF. The group's independently operating companies as well as ten regional cooperatives have consolidated essential parts of their IT. This for example includes the group-wide ERP - which contains the master data of more than 785,000 food, near-food and non-food items resulting in more than 10 terabytes of stored data - with SAP, but also perimeter security. The Internet traffic relies on two different, redundant providers (dual homing) and is protected by Fortinet's high performance UTM appliances. All Migros companies and branch offices are connected via MLPS in the group's internal network, which enables a widely consolidated Internet access.

According to Philipp Jacky, Telecommunications Manager at Migros IT services, the data traffic is enormous – and continues to grow: "To provide Internet traffic without performance loss even in peak hours, we need a high performance security platform. We constantly need to filter the entire inbound and outbound HTTP traffic of every Migros company in real time, scan for viruses and use IPS to fight off attacks.

Solution

When the security specialists of Migros evaluated the ideal security appliance, they had several key criteria in mind, including the ability to deliver high speed, latency-free throughput, and a large number of 10 Gig ports. Furthermore, they required an appealing price performance ratio, moderate maintenance and operation costs, prompt updates of anti-threat signatures and ease of use.

For Philipp Jacky, all of these criteria spoke for Fortinet's powerful UTM appliances: "We now rely on two high performance FortiGate-3951B UTM appliances. We have integrated them as a cluster in our data centers with one active firewall controlling and securing all data traffic and the second in hot standby as backup. Multi-threat security appliances integrate a wide range of security features within one system. This includes classic firewall as well as antivirus, IPS, URL or spam filtering, and VPN access. Pooling these functions in a 64-bit Fortinet appliance perfectly matched our requirements."

Implemented by Fortinet's partner Sidarion, the FortiGate-3951B device combines three essential elements to achieve wire-speed firewall performance at 10-GbE and GbE link speeds and ensure that security will not slow Migros' network: custom hardware including FortiASIC processors, a modular architecture for future growth, and consolidated security from the FortiOS operating system.

According to Jacky, their FortiGate-3951B appliance offers substantial benefits over best-class point solutions. One example is the significant ease of use gained with UTM appliances in comparison with configuring, operating, upgrading and maintaining systems from multiple vendors. With only the FortiGuard subscription services and FortiCare maintenance contracts in place, it's easy to keep all UTM functions and signatures up to date.

CASE STUDY

Challenges

- Implement integrated multi-threat security appliances in a cluster to effectively protect entire network at perimeter

Objectives

- Ensure maximum security for ICT infrastructure
- Secure Internet access for all entities, including independently operating companies and regional cooperatives
- Secure Internet traffic without performance loss in peak hours

Deployment

FortiGate-3951B
FortiGuard Subscription Services
FortiCare Maintenance Contract

Industry

Retail

"For perimeter protection, we have been using Fortinet for years and have achieved a constantly high level of security."

"As the FortiGate appliance consolidates a range of security functions, we were able to sustainably improve our levels of security and performance while reducing administration and maintenance costs."

- Philipp Jacky
Telecommunications Manager
Migros IT-Services

Moreover, Jacky mentions striking price benefits: “Integrating several functions into one system reduces both purchase and installation costs as well as expenses for maintenance, support and upgrades. When building a redundant environment, these expenditures even double and price differences multiply.”

Success

Maximum security and high availability were core requirements for Migros’ ICT infrastructure. The Migros Group now relies on Fortinet integrated multi-threat network security appliances to protect effectively its entire network at the perimeter and fundamental security functions such as firewall, IPS, antivirus and web filtering have been consolidated into a single firewall cluster.

Choosing a UTM appliance to protect Migros’ massively growing data was innovative and proved right in every aspect. With FortiGate-3951B, Migros now relies on one of today’s most powerful UTM appliances with Fortinet’s innovative FortiASIC processors ensuring a firewall performance of 120 Gbps max. This remarkable performance ensures latency-free protection of the entire Internet traffic as well as high availability of core applications such as SAP, Oracle and SQL. The appliance monitors and controls no less than 145 SAP instances, 220 Oracle and 230 SQL databases, as well as data traffic for 325 Unix servers plus 4,239 physical and 405 virtual Windows servers.

Migros does not use all of the service options the UTM appliance offers: “So far, we haven’t configured VPN services, for example,” Jacky says. “But it’s great that we can activate every single function at any time, assign different profiles to our group’s companies and configure the respective services. Also, new services such as application control for peer-to-peer and social media platforms can be integrated any time.”

Beyond technical performance and cost, Migros appreciates the support, partnership and knowhow delivered. “It was definitely the right choice. First of all, we benefit from an enormously robust and easy to use security platform. Secondly, we profit from our partners’ strong customer orientation. Whenever vendor involvement is needed, we are repeatedly impressed with our partners’ quick reaction times and competent support. This applies to Fortinet as well as our systems integrator Sidarion, an excellent partner in terms of IT security.”

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