

Sarajevogas Implements Multi-Layered Security Architecture



INDUSTRY

Energy

HEADQUARTERS

Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

COMPANY SIZE

300 employees

OVERVIEW

KJKP Sarajevogas is a public utility company responsible for the distribution of natural gas in the Sarajevo Canton. The company's main activities include the supply, distribution, and maintenance of the natural gas network, as well as providing customer services related to natural gas usage. Sarajevogas is committed to the safe, reliable, and efficient delivery of natural gas, with a focus on environmental protection, customer satisfaction, and continual improvement of services. Sarajevogas is dedicated to transparency, anti-corruption policies, and adherence to quality standards.

OUR SOLUTION



Our goal was to make our environment secure, and Check Point not only protects our critical infrastructure but also provides us peace of mind.

Ishak Alajbegovic, head of IT at Sarajevogas



CHALLENGE

KJKP Sarajevogas provides gas distribution and network management services throughout Sarajevo, Bosnia, and Herzegovina for its nearly 100,000 customers. Two years ago, Sarajevogas experienced a significant digital scare when a ransomware attack shuttered its data center and IT infrastructure. During that incident, the attackers managed to encrypt essential data, threatening operational continuity. “Everything was maliciously encrypted and our whole cluster, data center, and all of our systems were compromised,” explained Ishak Alajbegovic, head of IT, describing the incident.

Fortunately, Sarajevogas’s technology team ran its systems and infrastructure proficiently and was able to quickly recover its data and restore its operations. “If we hadn’t maintained backups, we would have lost all data from the beginning of the company to that very moment,” Alajbegovic said. Still, the ransomware attack exposed significant vulnerabilities in the company’s cyber security framework, compelling leadership to seek a comprehensive, robust cyber security defense. Sarajevogas also found its staff each spending hours a week identifying and reporting suspicious emails, while the IT teams spent too much time each week on manual security management and incident response tasks.

“We set out to revamp our defenses and rethink everything from the ground up,” Alajbegovic said. That revamp included its seven key geographic locations, primary data center, and the databases and enterprise resource planning software it runs. It also included its entire internal network used by its 300 employees.

SOLUTION

To find the right set of solutions, the Sarajevogas technology team consulted extensively with the IT community, a trusted technology services provider, and conducted its own extensive research. Following those efforts, the company chose Check Point Software Technologies for its integrated security platform. And the decision was made to deploy Harmony Endpoint, Harmony Email & Collaboration and Quantum Spark.

Check Point’s integrated security management system, called the Infinity Platform, is a unified, multi-layered cyber security architecture that provides comprehensive protection across networks, clouds, endpoints, and mobile devices. This integrated security platform provides unified threat prevention, centralized management, cloud and endpoint security. It is also integrated with ThreatCloud AI, a real-time threat intelligence service, and machine learning to detect, prevent, and respond to sophisticated cyber attacks.

“We were impressed with how well Check Point integrated its security functions such as endpoint, email, firewall management, and network segmentation. Check Point provides us comprehensive monitoring and protection with minimal disruption,” he said.

OUTCOME

Sarajevogas's deployment of Check Point was remarkably smooth. The implementation began with Harmony Endpoint, and covered 300 end users, followed by Harmony Email & Collaboration. Alajbegovic was particularly impressed by the ease of integration, noting that implementing the email security with Office 365 was "a piece of cake."

Overall, the results were immediate and transformative. Before Check Point, Sarajevogas suffered from frequent spam emails and phishing attacks, increasing the risk of successful ransomware infiltrations. Also, after deployment, the company experienced zero ransomware incidents, with one isolated attempt being quickly neutralized by Check Point's advanced anti-ransomware capabilities. In fact, Check Point slashed phishing emails by more than 90% and spam accuracy reached 99.9%.

Harmony Email & Collaboration also reduced the amount of time the IT team had to spend managing email related incidents by 75%.

While Harmony Email & Collaboration eliminated spam, the Harmony Endpoint provided comprehensive monitoring without disrupting user experience. Notably, because Harmony Endpoint optimized device security processes, device performance improved across the company. Alajbegovic noted how Harmony Endpoint could run multiple background services and even helped identify hardware that needed upgrading. This cut security incidents by 60% to 90%, depending on the specifics of the endpoint environment. While Check Point's integration and ability to automate many routine security processes cut the amount of time internal teams spent on security management and incident response by 60% to 70% depending on the role.

Beyond technical metrics, the deployment represented a strategic transformation of Sarajevogas's cyber security posture. The company went from being a victim of a critical ransomware attack to establishing a robust, proactive security infrastructure. "Our goal is to make our environment secure, and Check Point not only protects our critical infrastructure but also provides us peace of mind," Alajbegovic said.

ABOUT CHECK POINT

Check Point Software Technologies Ltd. (www.checkpoint.com) is a leading AI-powered, cloud-delivered cyber security platform provider protecting over 100,000 organizations worldwide. Check Point leverages the power of AI everywhere to enhance cyber security efficiency and accuracy through its Infinity Platform, with industry-leading catch rates enabling proactive threat anticipation and smarter, faster response times. The comprehensive platform includes cloud-delivered technologies consisting of Check Point Harmony to secure the workspace, Check Point CloudGuard to secure the cloud, Check Point Quantum to secure the network, and Check Point Infinity Core Services for collaborative security operations and services.

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