

SECURITY

The Holy Spirit University of Kaslik Secures its Campus Network with Fortinet

8,000 students, 1,300 instructors and 400 employees now protected from web-based attacks

With the proliferation of the university's students and faculty staff use of personal mobile devices (BYOD), such as tablets, smartphones and laptops via the university's wireless network, it became crucial to implement a solid security strategy to enforce both wired and wireless access and use policies to both internal and external resources to prevent possible security threats without compromising the user experience. USEK were seeking a UTM solution/ NGFW that contains rich features like IPS, Application control, Bandwidth management, Web-content filtering and VPN with the ability to create, deploy and manage security profiles in a very efficient and simple way. In May 2014, the university decided to replace its existing Cisco, Tipping Point and Blue Coat security solutions with a single provider in order to standardize our network security and simplify the management of its security appliances.

"We previously relied on solutions from different vendors to protect our network and applications, moreover with Fortinet's FortiGate™ platform, we have broad security features within a single appliance. Only FortiGate had all the security and authentication features that match our specific requirements without compromising security and performance. During our various tests, Fortinet's solutions proved to be technically superior to competing solutions both in terms of performance and reliability," said Ziad Eid, IT Director and CIO at the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik.

TECHNOLOGY AND SOLUTIONS:

USEK conducted an analysis of IT security

solutions and Fortinet was identified as the only vendor offering the best security solution in terms of features, performance, simplicity and reliability. The institution then implemented Fortinet's FortiGate Next-Generation Firewall (NGFW), FortiAuthenticator™ user identity management, and FortiAnalyzer™ for network security logging, analysis and reporting. Fortinet's appliances were chosen for their high-level of performance, broad range of security features and ease of deployment and management.

The implementation of two FortiGate-800C next generation firewall appliances, two FortiAuthenticator-1000D and one FortiAnalyzer-1000C was completed in May 2014 by Fortinet's partner, Triple C, to deliver the following integrated features: UTM, application control, web-content filtering, SSL and IPsec VPNs, with the ability to create, deploy and manage security profiles in a simple and efficient way. The migration from the previous Cisco firewalls to Fortinet was smooth and seamless, while a unique approach integrating with the existing wireless controllers, USEK were able to receive accounting messages related to 802.1x wireless authenticated users through the Forti-Authenticator device.

User identity and access security was strengthened using the FortiAuthenticator-1000D Single Sign On (SSO), to manage and enforce the unique user's security profile for both wired and wireless access. The big advantage of Fortinet over all the competition is the ability to do seamless authentication with Active Directory. It enables user identity based security without impeding the user or generating work for network administrators. Built on the foundations of Fortinet Single Sign-On, the FortiAuthenticator is the network's gatekeeper, identifying users,

querying access permissions from third party systems and communicating this information to the FortiGate devices for identity-based policies enforcement. Now a user will benefit from the same security profile applied whether using a desktop or using any mobile device.

Finally, the Forti Analyzer-1000C, Fortinet's logging and reporting appliance, securely collects and centralizes daily logs of FortiGate devices and allows the creation of reports and statistics for complete visibility of the network security posture and network traffic analysis. Thanks to FortiAnalyzer, the reports generated help USEK in improving its services and optimizing our security profiles.

BENEFITS:

- All applications have been identified and their usage is being controlled efficiently
 - UTM policies are being applied to both wired and wireless users.
 - Maximum productivity with fair-use enforcement.
 - Identity-driven policies without complexity of deployment.
 - Improving ROI and significantly lowering TCO (Total cost of Ownership).

"Very soon we will implement FortiGate-300C at our biggest branch in the Zahle area. We have acquired a good level of technical know-how and are capable of deploying and managing our Fortinet appliances. This success has motivated the IT team to have more Fortinet implementations at branches and remote faculties as well," explains Abdo Karaki, Head of Network and Security Division at the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik.

PARTNER IN THE PROJECT:

Fortinet's Gold partner Triple C carried out the implementation.



"We are glad that USEK entrusted Triple C for its security expertise and outstanding technical support and Fortinet security solutions to solving the problems they had with the existing solution."

JACQUES RAHMOUCH,
 VP OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
 AT TRIPLE C