Bitdefender®

BLDD delivers blueprint for advanced data center security

Bitdefender enables secure virtual desktop rollout, improves infrastructure efficiency, and streamlines security administration

THE CHALLENGE

When Dan Reynolds joined BLDD Architects, Inc., he was excited about increasing IT efficiency and agility with software-defined datacenter technologies. It wasn't long though before he ran into a roadblock. BLDD's prior workload-security solution was not optimized for virtualized environments. Eventually, he discovered Bitdefender GravityZone Enterprise Security.

Reynolds, BLDD's Senior Systems Administrator, recalls, "When I was looking for a solution to protect our VMware workloads, GravityZone was the obvious choice since it was the only product specifically built for virtual and cloud environments. As a design firm, we run some heavy graphics workloads, such as Autodesk's Revit product (a 3D CAD/BIM program), which puts high demands on our CPU resources. GravityZone uses minimal computing resources, so it doesn't interfere with system performance or users' productivity."

In addition, increasing security protection was a concern since the previous solution had not blocked infected files users had downloaded from the Web or received from clients or partners. GravityZone's stellar security ratings in industry reports along with its performance in BLDD's environment also were important advantages.

THE SOLUTION

Today, BLDD depends on GravityZone Enterprise Security to protect physical Windows and Apple workstations, and VMware Horizon-based virtual desktops. The physical infrastructure resides in BLDD's Decatur, Illinois office.

To protect virtual servers, GravityZone is fully integrated with VMware vCenter. BLDD applications running in the infrastructure protected by Bitdefender include Autodesk Revit, Bluebeam Revu, Microsoft Office, and Adobe, among others.

GravityZone's CPU licensing option has proved its value as BLDD's operations have expanded.

"By licensing by the CPU, GravityZone automatically adjusts as the number of virtual desktops fluctuates without me needing to purchase additional licenses," explains Reynolds. "It's more cost effective and makes it easier to scale."

BLDD ARCHITECTS

BLDD Architects, Inc., founded in 1929, is a renowned architectural and structural design, master planning, interior design, building information modeling, and graphic design firm. BLDD operates offices in Chicago, Decatur, Illinois and Davenport, Iowa. With 47 awards and distinctions, BLDD has thrived by providing clients with future-focused, innovative and sustainable designs.

Industry
Architecture

Headquarters
Decatur, Illinois, USA

Results
- Achieved 100% success in blocking attempted threats

- Improved infrastructure performance and efficiency

- Reduced average weekly time on security administration from 4-5 hours to less than one hour

- Allowed for remote, proactive administration of workstations and virtual desktops

- Enabled work-at-home option for employees by making secure virtual desktops available

THE RESULTS

GravityZone has consistently blocked the occasional infections that attempt to infiltrate BLDD's IT environment.

Reynolds acknowledges, "I'm paranoid about security. When an employee occasionally downloads an infected file or visits a malicious web site, GravityZone thwarts the infection before it causes any issues. GravityZone has helped us avoid ransomware and other threats."

In addition, GravityZone delivers top security protection without hurting infrastructure performance or users' productivity.

"Our employees share some very large 2D and 3D graphics files, so performance is a top requirement," says Reynolds. "Bitdefender is essentially invisible because it runs without any impact on response times or consolidation ratios, except that it makes our infrastructure extremely secure. Employees don't even know it's there. Bitdefender is our silent hero."

Reynolds appreciates that Bitdefender has streamlined security administration. He estimates his time spent on security tasks dropped from 4-5 hours to less than an hour per week on average.

"GravityZone automates security tasks and protects both our physical and virtual infrastructure from a single console," says Reynolds. "I have visibility into any workstation, virtual desktop or server so I can be proactive."

The firm recently decided to consolidate five offices to three locations since three of the offices were located near each other.

Reynolds explains, "When we consolidated some offices, it meant longer commutes for certain employees. BLDD now offers a work-at-home option to ease the commute. Being able to provide employees with secure virtual desktops protected by Bitdefender and accessible from any workstation or device helped make that possible."

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Dan Reynolds, Senior Systems Administrator, BLDD Architects

Bitdefender Footprint
- GravityZone Enterprise Security
- GravityZone On-Premises Management Console

IT Environment
- VMware ESXi
- VMware Horizon

Operating Systems
- Apple (Mac)
- Microsoft Windows