

Greenman-Pedersen engineers safer cybersecurity protection

Top engineering firm sees malware-related incidents decreased by nearly 90 percent, faster threat detection and response and improved user experience with reduced false alerting



THE CHALLENGE

At Greenman-Pedersen, one of the top engineering design firms in the U.S., much of the action happens in the field. That's where engineers, scientists and other staff design and build bridges, highways, golf courses, sustainable and walkable urban centers and more.

An organization that is often conducting field-based work can present cybersecurity challenges. For example, a significant portion of staff work remotely, making it difficult to patch and maintain security. Moving from McAfee endpoint protection software to Bitdefender GravityZone Elite has provided GPI with increased protection and streamlined security administration.

Timothy Du Four, Assistant Vice President and Director of Information Technology, Greenman-Pedersen, states, "Before Bitdefender, we were reactionary because we lacked visibility into security issues. As a result, things that should have been caught readily were not and exposed us to unnecessary risk. Now, we're proactive and better protected because GravityZone provides us with improved detection, alerting and reporting."

THE SOLUTION

Today, GPI uses Bitdefender GravityZone Elite to protect 1,900 workstations, 35 physical servers and 125 virtual servers. The environment primarily runs Microsoft Windows and Microsoft Hyper-V.

In addition, GPI uses GravityZone Elite's Sandbox Analyzer, an endpoint-integrated sandbox to analyze suspicious files, detonate payloads and report malicious intent to administrators, and HyperDetect, a next-generation security layer that provides tunable machine learning with advanced heuristics and anti-exploit techniques.

Applications running in GPI's environment protected by Bitdefender include Microsoft Office 365, Autodesk AutoCAD, Adobe, Bluebeam Revu and MicroStation CAD, among others.

GPI

Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. (GPI) offers engineering and design work for building, infrastructure, power, transportation and telecommunications projects. Founded in 1966, the firm has 1,500 employees, 20 offices in the U.S. and more than \$200 million in annual revenues.

Industry

Engineering

Headquarters

Babylon, New York, USA

Employees

1,500 (IT staff, 20)

Results

- Increased accuracy and speed with detecting and blocking malicious activity
- Improved protection reduced requirement for rebuilding or refreshing machines
- Decreased malware-related trouble calls by 75 to 90 percent
- Enabled quicker action with easy-to-use portal

THE RESULTS

Protection from malware and other threats has increased significantly since GPI switched to Bitdefender.

“We appreciate the GravityZone solution’s accuracy and speed with identifying and blocking malicious activity,” Du Four says. “GravityZone has done an excellent job for us.”

Jason Kraai, Systems Administrator, GPI, adds, “With tools like HyperDetect, we’re able to spot attack vectors that simply weren’t visible previously. Before GravityZone, rebuilding and refreshing machines due to security issues was not uncommon.”

Users also are not needlessly bothered by alerts, according to Michelle Demeo, Systems Administrator, GPI. “Our users feel more secure because they’re not getting weekly alerts that prompted them to call us and find out it was a false alarm. Bitdefender runs in the background taking care of things without interrupting their day.”

In fact, malware-related trouble calls to GPI’s IT department have dropped by 75 to 90 percent since replacing McAfee with Bitdefender.

Kraai especially appreciates how easy GravityZone is to administer. “The GravityZone portal is easy to use and provides a lot of valuable data. Glancing at the dashboards shows us quickly what areas we should take a closer look at. The reporting and alerting also help us take quicker action, when for example, an employee accidentally clicks on a phishing email.”

GPI is considering using the Bitdefender GravityZone Full-Disk Encryption to encrypt hard drives and make the data inaccessible without the proper security access privileges. With extensive field-based activity, incidents of stolen or lost laptops occur more frequently than in GPI’s office-based environment, putting high-value data at risk.

Looking ahead, Du Four plans to expand GPI’s use of GravityZone Elite. “We’re impressed with Bitdefender’s deep R&D investments and innovations in cybersecurity. We look forward to extending content filtering from the office environment to the field and learning more about AI and machine learning capabilities that react to behavioral changes. We’ve chosen the right partner for today and well into the future.”

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Timothy Du Four, Assistant Vice President and Director of Information Technology, Greenman-Pedersen

Bitdefender Footprint

- Bitdefender HyperDetect
- GravityZone Elite

IT Environment

- Autodesk AutoCAD
- Bluebeam Revu
- Microsoft Hyper-V
- Microsoft Office 365
- MicroStation CAD

Operating Systems

- Microsoft Windows