The Foundation treats data risks with enterprise-wide cybersecurity

Medical and social services provider in France reports improved data protection, simplified administration, and annual cost savings of 300,000 euros

Established in 1884, the Léopold Bellan Foundation provides medical, mental health, and social services to children and adults of all ages. With more than 4,000 beds spanning 68 facilities, the Foundation employs 2,500 employees and 300 volunteers to operate schools, centers for people with disabilities, senior housing, and hospitals.

Industry
Healthcare

Headquarters
Paris, France

Employees
2,500 (IT staff, 10)

Results
- 10:1 reduction in false positives
- Annual cost savings of 300,000 euros
- System administration staff working on security decreased from three to one
- Elimination of virtual server performance slowdowns

THE CHALLENGE

The Léopold Bellan Foundation operates 68 facilities in Paris and surrounding communities to provide adults and children with affordable or no-cost medical and social services. Recognizing the highly confidential nature of interactions with clients, the Foundation regards privacy of data as a top priority.

With individual sites responsible for their own data security, the Foundation became concerned that a decentralized security strategy heightened the risk of slow, uncoordinated responses to potential cyber-attacks. Further, security solutions at Foundation locations, including Kaspersky, Trend Micro and Sophos, presented issues with system slowdowns, multiple management consoles, false positives, and misconfigurations.

The IT team embarked on a two-pronged strategy to address these issues. First, the Foundation centralized the IT team. Second, IT formed an enterprise-wide security strategy and conducted a proof-of-concept of security solutions offered by Bitdefender, Avast, ESET, F-Secure, and Kaspersky. Bitdefender GravityZone Advanced Business Security emerged as the clear choice for the Foundation.

Michel Alves, Chief Information Officer, Léopold Bellan Foundation, explains, "We chose Bitdefender GravityZone because the management console made it much simpler to oversee and configure security across multiple sites. We also ran multiple tests and Bitdefender was number one with catching malware and eliminating performance slowdowns for our virtual servers."

THE SOLUTION

The Foundation depends on GravityZone Advanced Business Security to protect 1,400 Microsoft Windows workstations, Linux servers, and VMware vSphere virtual servers from threats and attack vectors.

The environment protected by Bitdefender also includes Citrix XenDesktop, Citrix XenServer, Microsoft Active Directory, Microsoft SQL Server, Oracle, and Cerner electronic healthcare records.

Managed from a single console, GravityZone Advanced Business Security provides the Foundation with proven machine learning, behavioral analysis, advanced anti-exploit, continuous monitoring of running processes, and risk assessment capabilities.

THE RESULTS

Security protection has improved significantly on several fronts at the Léopold Bellan Foundation. Not only has the organization avoided any data loss but IT spends less time managing security. With GravityZone endpoint risk management and analytics, IT can easily assess configuration issues or potential security risks in the application layer. Further, IT can identify risky user behavior, such as use of removable drives.

"We estimate a 10:1 reduction in false positives since installing Bitdefender," reports Alves. "In the past, false positives would cause us to halt transmission of affected files and investigate. Any delay in delivery of data, especially medical data, to the doctors even by a few minutes is unacceptable. With Bitdefender, we're able to deliver better performance to our medical teams so they can provide the best quality of care."

Another contributor to better performance of the overall infrastructure has been the elimination of system slowdowns due to GravityZone's lightweight design and minimal use of computing resources.

Alves notes, "The GravityZone management console is really cool because it's so easy to understand, deploy on endpoints, and gather security intelligence. We reduced the system administrators working on security from three to one, and reallocated those resources to other projects, such as interoperability projects for healthcare apps and billing software in the medico-social sector. Plus, we have decreased the need for IT contractors at the individual sites. Centralizing our cybersecurity strategy with Bitdefender saves the Foundation 300,000 euros per year."

In addition to the advanced technology, Alves greatly values the relationship he and his team have with Bitdefender.

"Working with Bitdefender has been a true business partnership," remarks Alves. "Not only is Bitdefender extremely responsive with technical questions but they solicit our perspective on technology direction. Bitdefender is an industry leader in consistently delivering new products and features to stay ahead of constantly changing security threats."

"Centralizing our cybersecurity strategy with Bitdefender saves the Foundation 300,000 euros per year."

Michel Alves, Chief Information Officer, Léopold Bellan Foundation

Bitdefender Footprint
- GravityZone Advanced Business Security

IT Environment
- Cerner
- Citrix XenDesktop
- Citrix XenServer
- Microsoft Active Directory
- Microsoft SQL Server
- Oracle
- VMware vSphere

Operating Systems
- Linux
- Microsoft Windows