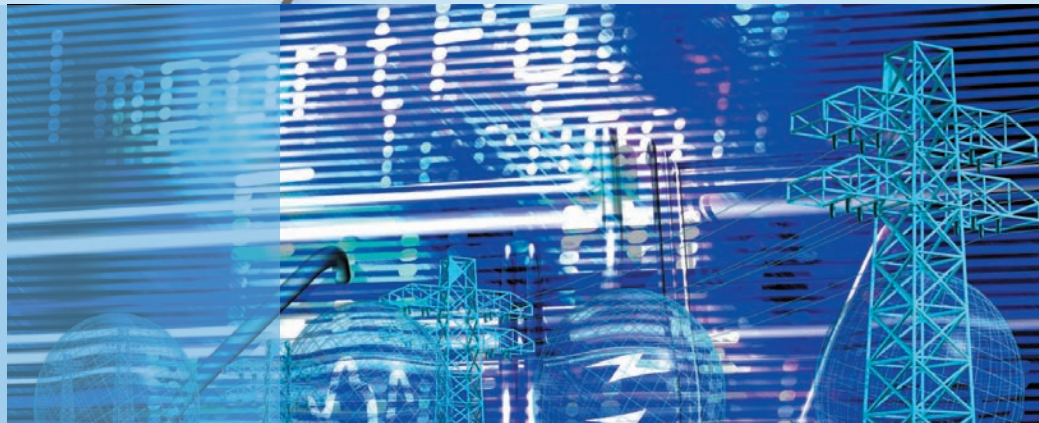


*“Both the rapid deployment and the quality of the Check Point solution saved us money. By simply adding the ClusterXL solution to our existing Check Point VPN-1, we did not have to drastically alter our firewall environment, which represents a big savings.”*

*Longinus Timochenco  
MAE Security Officer*



## CUSTOMER NAME

Mercado Atacadista de Energia Elétrica (MAE)

## INDUSTRY

Energy

## CHECK POINT PRODUCTS

- VPN-1® Power™
- ClusterXL®

## CUSTOMER NEEDS MET

- Delivered non-stop security for online energy transactions
- Improved network performance
- Provided fast deployment
- Offered substantial cost savings

# MAE Powers Secure Energy Trading with Check Point

## ABOUT MAE

Mercado Atacadista de Energia Elétrica (MAE) provides a unique service in the Brazilian energy market—it is an online exchange for energy traders. As a not-for-profit private organization regulated by Brazil’s National Electric Energy Agency (ANELL), MAE began operations in September 2000, to enable the purchase and sale of electric energy by market agents who represent companies that generate, distribute, and sell both commercial and consumer energy. Energy company agents and customers conduct business and communicate through the MAE data center, and MAE guarantees the integrity of the information, ensures transaction security, and is responsible for administrating the financial, accounting, and operational tasks within this market.

## THE MAE CHALLENGE

Like a stock exchange or any online transaction processing system, MAE can’t tolerate data loss or corruption or system downtime. To ensure 24/7 availability of its security environment, MAE maintained redundant firewall servers—one in production and one on standby. “The non-operating server represented a large investment that we were not using to our best advantage,” says Longinus Timochenco, MAE security officer. “We decided to place both servers in operation simultaneously through load balancing, which would improve system performance, data integrity, and scalability.”

However, when MAE tried to implement a cluster solution from their existing vendor, it did not integrate with MAE’s Check Point firewall solution. When the existing vendor could not resolve the compatibility problem, Timochenco turned to Check Point for a clustered firewall solution.

## THE CHECK POINT SOLUTION

As a security specialist, Timochenco was familiar with the major companies specializing in Internet security solutions. “We thoroughly analyzed Internet security products and solutions from all the major vendors and the only solution that met all of our criteria and prerequisites for functionality, scalability, local support, and timely implementation was Check Point,” he explains. So MAE called Check Point value-added reseller partner Compugraf to implement the solution.

Brazil’s energy marketplace is now protected by Check Point VPN-1® Power™ on a high availability two-way server cluster. VPN-1 Power combines Check Point’s market-leading FireWall-1® and VPN technologies for the highest level of Internet, intranet, and extranet secure connectivity for corporate networks, remote and mobile users, and business partners.

Check Point ClusterXL™ is a software-based load sharing and high availability solution that enables the distribution of traffic between multiple redundant gateways to combine and increase throughput. When one gateway server is unreachable, all connections are automatically redirected to the other without interruption.

“The most impressive aspect of Check Point technology is the proper integration of firewalls and load balancing,” says Timochenco. “MAE was the first company in Brazil to implement ClusterXL, and we became a model for other companies solving the same problems.”

MAE rounds out its security environment with Web content filtering, intrusion detection protection, and antivirus software, all from Check Point OPSEC partners.

## THE BENEFITS OF CHECK POINT SECURITY

### More Reliable Security

“We have a 99.9 percent availability goal for the components in our data center,” says Edson Lugli, MAE technology architecture manager. “With ClusterXL we have eliminated the risk of losing user connections in the event of equipment malfunction.”

According to Timochenco, ClusterXL provides MAE with important improvements in its network security environment. “We have improved transparency, data integrity, and a perfect view of network activity.”

### Better Scalability for Business Growth

The improved scalability afforded by the clustered Check Point gateway allows MAE to expand its secure environment to meet its business needs and offer new and innovative market solutions to our partners. “The solution completely adheres to the transaction security policies in our virtual environment established by our regulator, ANELL,” adds Timochenco.

### Fast Deployment

The Check Point ClusterXL solution was implemented very quickly. In fact, the implementation was completed in 24 hours. “Both planning and implementation were extremely efficient,” says Lugli. “This was a major component for us in considering the solution a success.”

### Substantial Cost Savings

Timochenco notes some major cost benefits to the Check Point solution. “Both the rapid deployment and the quality of the Check Point solution saved us money. By simply adding the ClusterXL solution to our existing Check Point VPN-1, we did not have to drastically alter our firewall environment, which represents a big savings.” In addition, he reports a 40 percent reduction in system administration costs through time saved.

## THE FUTURE OF MAE GROUP

Securing the information in MAE’s environment is a critical requirement because the electric energy sector generates 15 percent of Brazil’s gross industrial product (GIP). Later, MAE will look closely at Check Point VPN-1 SecuRemote® and SecureClient™ tools to enhance remote access security to the corporate network.

## CONTACT CHECK POINT

### Worldwide Headquarters

5 Ha’ Solelim Street, Tel Aviv 67897, Israel | Tel: 972-3-753-4555 | Fax: 972-3-624-1100 | Email: info@checkpoint.com

### U.S. Headquarters

800 Bridge Parkway, Redwood City, CA 94065 | Tel: 800-429-4391; 650-628-2000 | Fax: 650-654-4233 | www.checkpoint.com