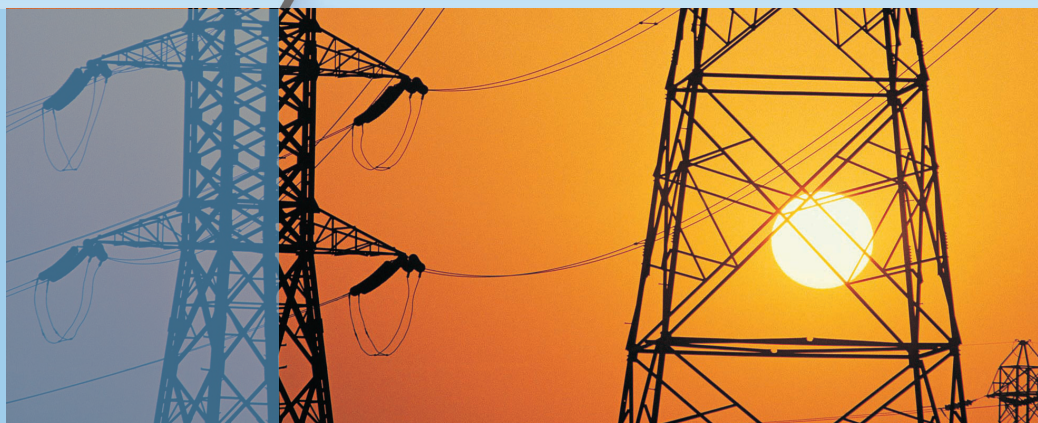


“SmartDefense Services make us aware of new threats and give us the fast reaction time we need to stay ahead of threats that can harm or disrupt our business.”

*Director of Network Security
Western U.S. Electric Utility*



INDUSTRY

Energy

CHECK POINT PRODUCTS

- SmartDefense™ Services
- VPN-1® Power™
- Eventia® Reporter

CUSTOMER NEEDS MET

- Enabled most current security defenses
- Provided real-time defense updates against emerging threats
- Improved efficiency in threat identification and response

SmartDefense Services Keep Power Company Ahead of Threats

ABOUT THE UTILITY COMPANY

A power company in the western United States provides electricity from hydroelectric, natural gas, nuclear, and thermal sources to more than 750,000 customers.

THE UTILITY COMPANY CHALLENGE

As a utility provider, the company takes security very seriously. It must meet the standards for the safe, reliable, and secure transmission of electricity set forth by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the North American Electric Reliability Council. It must provide thousands of employees with a reliable, secure IT environment in which to perform their jobs. And for its growing e-commerce business, the company must maintain robust security to protect the confidential information of customers who request services and pay their bills online via the Internet.

The company network has established several levels of security. It uses four Check Point firewalls at the perimeter of the network—at the ingress and egress points to the Internet. It also uses Check Point firewalls on the Frame Relay cloud network with its utility partners. Deeper in the network, additional firewalls are deployed to protect the substations and the smaller departments that maintain sensitive data.

Since implementing Check Point security, no worms or port scans have gotten through the perimeter from the Internet. However, with new threats emerging at a rapidly accelerating rate, how can the relatively small IT staff at the power company stay ahead of the legions of malicious code writers?

THE CHECK POINT SOLUTION

To stay ahead of emerging security threats, the power company uses Check Point SmartDefense™ Services. The Check Point SmartDefense Services tab in the SmartDashboard™ console is included with Check Point VPN-1®, Connectra™, and Check Point Endpoint Security™ security solutions. The utility company uses the console to configure, enforce, and update network and application attack protections. The defenses configured from the



console actively protect the company from all known and unknown network and application attacks using Application Intelligence™ and Stateful Inspection technologies.

SmartDefense Services provide automatic defense updates and configuration advisories to block emerging threats. SmartDefense Updates provide ongoing and real-time defenses for new types of attacks and recently discovered vulnerabilities. Notification of an update is automatically sent to SmartDashboard, where it can be selected for instant download. SmartDefense Advisories provide detailed descriptions of vulnerabilities, threats, or attacks and step-by-step instructions for activating and configuring relevant defenses against new or variant attacks.

“We have an intrusion detection system, but it is cumbersome to configure and doesn’t catch everything,” says the company’s director of network security. “It made sense to use SmartDefense right on the front line.”

THE BENEFITS OF CHECK POINT SECURITY

The director views SmartDefense Services as “one of the few true bargains available.” That’s because in a single week, Check Point VPN-1 Power™, backed by SmartDefense Services Updates and Advisories, stops as many as 18 million threats, including worms, port scans, FTP bounces, spyware, and malformed packets. “With SmartDefense Services, we stay ahead of the curve on new exploits. The Check Point updates are usually the first warnings I see about new threats,” says the director, who receives one or two SmartDefense Updates or Advisories each week.

Blocking spyware to improve performance

SmartDefense Services provide proactive protection against spyware, as well as against the devastating threats of worms, denial of service, illegal Internet traffic, and IP fragmentation attacks. Spyware on hundreds of infected machines, each sending out information onto the Internet several times per minute, can have a profound effect on network performance and cause a flood of calls to the utility’s helpdesk. “While there are many products to disinfect spyware, none are thorough enough,” says the director. SmartDefense Services, however, provide updates and advisories for preempting spyware that can clog the network and impede business.

Saving time and resources

SmartDefense Services take the burden off the company’s relatively small security staff. “We would have to perform extensive signature research at the packet level to obtain the information we get automatically in the updates and advisories,” says the director.

SmartDefense Services are easy to use, and that is important to the power company. New defenses are highlighted on the SmartDashboard. “You can click on the update and read a description of what it will do before you download it and turn it on,” the director says.

Seeing the total threat picture

Together, SmartDefense and SmartDefense Services help the power company stay in control and on top of the changing threat environment. SmartDefense integrates with Check Point Eventia® Reporter, providing reports of blocked threats in an easy-to-read format. “SmartDefense gives us an excellent forensic tool,” says the director. “We can look at the daily trend to see if there is an issue we have to address and then study the detailed logs to resolve the issue.”

In addition, the power company’s Web team receives reports every month for their analysis to ensure that no necessary Web site connections are blocked. Also, colorful and easy-to-read graphics show the general manager and executive staff that the company is proactive in its security defenses.

THE FUTURE OF THE UTILITY COMPANY

As the power company continues to develop its e-commerce initiatives, the more critical Internet security becomes. Traffic to the company’s Web servers is growing at a tremendous rate as more and more customers choose to procure services and pay their bills online. “Providing our customers with the highest level of secure access to our Web site is essential, and it is a key element in our commitment to customer service,” says the director. “SmartDefense Services make us aware of new threats and give us the fast reaction time we need to stay ahead of threats that can harm or disrupt our business.”

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