

*“Our Check Point solution has the intelligence to prevent sophisticated attacks. And being able to manage a secure VPN is important. With Check Point, we can administer security for the VPN in a straightforward way.”*

*Michael Hodges  
Manager of System Services,  
University of Hawaii*



## CUSTOMER NAME

University of Hawaii

## INDUSTRY

Education

## CHECK POINT PRODUCTS

- VPN-1® Power™
- Application Intelligence™

## CUSTOMER NEEDS MET

- Securely expanded university's network availability
- Certified credit-card transactions for registering students
- Secured software test data for dispersed application developers
- Prepared network security design for public audit

# The University of Hawaii Protects its Slice of Paradise with Check Point Security Tools

## ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

The University of Hawaii (UH) system includes 10 campuses and dozens of educational, training, and research centers across the six Hawaiian Islands. As the public system of higher education in Hawaii, UH offers opportunities as unique and diverse as its island home. Its campuses and educational centers provide opportunities for learning and recreation, offering programs ranging from vocational training to doctoral studies.

## THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII CHALLENGE

UH Information Technology Services (ITS) has many responsibilities. Important responsibilities. For example, it is charged with supporting the computer-network security and availability demands of more than 47,000 students and 30 inhouse software developers and has to prove its network security to the satisfaction of a Big Four technology-consulting firm.

And after many years of using a firewall from a legacy computer-network provider, UH decided it needed a solution with much more functionality and a better user interface. With more than 58,000 students, faculty, and staff and a peak usage of 36,000 sessions per second, UH wanted to stay ahead of the network demand curve and forestall any potential performance issues. So beginning in winter 2004, the university began to evaluate alternatives to its current configuration. Together with network-security integration firm Secure Technology Hawaii Inc. (STHI), they analyzed different firewall/VPN solutions to determine alternatives that met UH's minimum security/connectivity needs.

In addition, UH needed a solution that's more flexible and adaptable to the changing pattern of attacks on the Internet. The current firewall/VPN had too much rigidity and no intelligent management capabilities. Michael Hodges, manager of system services for UH ITS, deemed it critical that any solution the university implemented must be able to meet the escalating exploits of hackers, worms, Trojans, and other dangers.

## THE CHECK POINT SOLUTION

It turns out that a Check Point VPN-1® Power™ integrated firewall and VPN connectivity solution hosted on a Corrent SR600 series security appliance gave the university the most effective solution. And with support for 50,000 sessions per second, it was the most scalable solution.

"We have been deploying and supporting Check Point since 1996, and it is still the leader in firewall and VPN technology," says Mike Walder, CISSP and president of STHI. "Based on that experience, we recommended that UH use Corrent's innovative acceleration technology and appliance approach to maximize the performance of VPN-1 Power and to keep its maintenance costs low."

STHI's selected solution also features the industry's most intelligent security inspection technologies—Application Intelligence™ and Check Point-patented Stateful Inspection. This solution offers UH a security package that preempts attacks against both the network and application layers of its island-strewn network. With Check Point technology at the forefront of the Internet security market since its inception, Hodges knew that VPN-1 Power offered a firewall with superior flexibility. But having seen the rising pattern of threats, he needed to rely on the intelligent capabilities of VPN-1 Power to ward off Internet exploits on top of its leading firewall functionality.

Overall, the Check Point/Corrent/STHI solution has performed quite well for UH, according to Hodges. An adaptable firewall atop an accelerated VPN fit the bill. And easy manageability of that solution proved very important to him with the UH network presence scattered over many square miles of the Pacific.

"Our Check Point solution has the intelligence to prevent the more sophisticated attacks and is one of the most adaptable firewalls out there," Hodges says. "And being as distributed as we are, being able to manage a secure VPN connection is important. With the Check Point interface, we can administer the security policies for the VPN in a very straightforward way. On the whole, we are very happy using a Check Point and Corrent solution in combination with strong support from STHI."

## THE BENEFITS OF CHECK POINT SECURITY

As an arm of a state agency, UH ITS needs to comply with many government regulations, as well as rules enforced by nongovernmental agencies. For example, UH offers students online class registration, including payment processing. With the majority of transactions conducted via Visa and MasterCard, ITS must prove to those credit-card organizations that it is impossible to misuse UH online business processes. To demonstrate compliance, ITS performed a self-assessment of its security infrastructure. With a large install base of Check Point products and their well-known reputation for providing top-notch security, Hodges confidently asserted the soundness of UH's online transaction systems in the self-assessment submitted to Visa and MasterCard. Subsequently, Visa and MasterCard certified UH's online transaction system.

"It's very important that we have Visa and MasterCard certification. Without certification, we could not offer online registration to students, which is a major timesaver for everyone," Hodges says.

"In the old days, students lined up in and around the old gymnasium to add classes and pay for registration—which took hours. Now, students expect to get their classes and pay for them online in three or four minutes from the location of their choice. As you can see, the demands of our customers are substantially higher than at any time in the past."

Because it is a state institution, UH's network security choices can have large public policy implications. Answering to the governor-appointed university board of regents makes those choices more complex. Therefore, UH hired auditors from Big Four technology-consulting practice PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC) to verify the security of its network design.

"It is critical in network design to identify and address vulnerabilities. With auditors annually reviewing our network security implementation, we are well positioned with our Check Point infrastructure to present a robust network-security solution that will pass muster," Hodges says. "Avoiding auditors' findings helps reassure our board of regents that we are taking the necessary steps to address network security."

## THE FUTURE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Open-source software affects all technology professionals. It seems everyone has joined the open-source mantra of "Cheaper, cheaper, cheaper!" Hodges has not been deaf to this siren call. With the university's move to the financial management package from the Kualii Project, a consortium of higher-educational institutions developing open-source software, he has to support the security needs of developers involved in implementing Kualii.

"UH has a history of maintaining our own information systems, but Kualii offers a chance to benefit from the work of others rather than having to do everything ourselves," Hodges says. "We're excited to help create our own financial management application in partnership with other universities. However, to benefit from that partnership, we have to guarantee that developers have secure access to test data vital to implementing Kualii. VPN-1 Power lets us provide developers—no matter where on campus, in the islands, or at one of our mainland sister universities—with secure access to their development systems."

The university is also preparing for the time when the Sarbanes-Oxley legislation applies to centers of higher learning. But all of UH's experience with self-assessment for Visa/MasterCard and PWC's public audit of its network-security design has laid the groundwork for that bigger challenge.

"While Sarbanes-Oxley is coming for higher education, we don't entirely know what that means yet," Hodges says. "But as it's further refined, we expect to leverage our Check Point architecture to meet changing regulatory requirements."

## CONTACT CHECK POINT

### Worldwide Headquarters

5 Ha'Solelim Street, Tel Aviv 67897, Israel | Tel: 972-3-753-4555 | Fax: 972-3-575-9256 | 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

©2003–2008 Check Point Software Technologies Ltd. All rights reserved. Check Point, AlertAdvisor, Application Intelligence, Check Point Endpoint Security, Check Point Express, Check Point Express CL, the Check Point logo, ClusterXL, Confidence Indexing, ConnectControl, Connectra, Connectra Accelerator Card, Cooperative Enforcement, Cooperative Security Alliance, CoreXL, CoSa, DefenseNet, Dynamic Shielding Architecture, Eventia, Eventia Analyzer, Eventia Reporter, Eventia Suite, FireWall-1, FireWall-1 GX, FireWall-1 SecureServer, FloodGate-1, Hacker ID, Hybrid Detection Engine, IMSecure, INSPECT, INSPECT XL, Integrity, Integrity Clientless Security, Integrity SecureClient, InterSpect, IPS-1, IQ Engine, MailSafe, NG, NGX, Open Security Extension, OPSEC, OSFirewall, Pointsec, Pointsec Mobile, Pointsec PC, Pointsec Protector, Policy Lifecycle Management, Provider-1, PureAdvantage, PURE Security, the puresecurity logo, Safe@Home, Safe@Office, SecureClient, SecureClient Mobile, SecureKnowledge, SecurePlatform, SecurePlatform Pro, SecuRemote, SecureServer, SecureUpdate, SecureXL, SecureXL Turbocard, Security Management Portal, Sentivist, SiteManager-1, SmartCenter, SmartCenter Express, SmartCenter Power, SmartCenter Pro, SmartCenter UTM, SmartConsole, SmartDashboard, SmartDefense, SmartDefense Advisor, Smarter Security, SmartLSM, SmartMap, SmartPortal, SmartUpdate, SmartView, SmartView Monitor, SmartView Reporter, SmartView Status, SmartViewTracker, SMP, SMP On-Demand, SofaWare, SSL Network Extender, Stateful Clustering, TrueVector, Turbocard, UAM, UserAuthority, User-to-Address Mapping, UTM-1, UTM-1 Edge, UTM-1 Edge Industrial, UTM-1 Total Security, VPN-1, VPN-1 Accelerator Card, VPN-1 Edge, VPN-1 Express, VPN-1 Express CI, VPN-1 Power, VPN-1 Power Multi-core, VPN-1 Power VSX, VPN-1 Pro, VPN-1 SecureClient, VPN-1 SecuRemote, VPN-1 SecureServer, VPN-1 UTM, VPN-1 UTM Edge, VPN-1 VSX, Web Intelligence, ZoneAlarm, ZoneAlarm Anti-Spyware, ZoneAlarm Antivirus, ZoneAlarm ForceField, ZoneAlarm Internet Security Suite, ZoneAlarm Pro, ZoneAlarm Secure Wireless Router, Zone Labs, and the Zone Labs logo are trademarks or registered trademarks of Check Point Software Technologies Ltd. or its affiliates. ZoneAlarm is a Check Point Software Technologies, Inc. Company. All other product names mentioned herein are trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective owners. The products described in this document are protected by U.S. Patent No. 5,606,668, 5,835,726, 5,987,611, 6,496,935, 6,873,988, 6,850,943, and 7,165,076 and may be protected by other U.S. Patents, foreign patents, or pending applications.