

PMS Group Conquers Email Threats in a Complex Cyber Security Landscape



INDUSTRY

Manufacturing

HEADQUARTERS

St. Stefan im Lavanttal,
Austria

COMPANY SIZE

500 employees

OVERVIEW

PMS Group (PMS Gruppe) is a leading provider of advanced electrical engineering, automation, and digitalization solutions, with a strong presence in Austria and international markets. PMS Group specializes in delivering partial and comprehensive solutions for industrial clients, supporting them in meeting specific technical requirements and executing complex projects.

Headquartered in St. Stefan im Lavanttal, Austria, with additional offices in Vienna, Linz, Salzburg, Kapfenberg, Villach and Kundl.

OUR SOLUTION



The company is known for its commitment to safety, innovation, and employee development. PMS Group operates with a robust governance framework emphasizing integrity, transparency, and accountability.



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Simon Pucher, PMS Group's head of IT and information security



CHALLENGE

For PMS Group, a company specializing in electrical cabinet production and automation, email security grew more challenging, particularly spam and phishing attacks that consumed significant administrative resources to combat. “Email-based attacks became our primary threat,” explained Simon Pucher, PMS Group’s head of IT and information security.

These email threats became more challenging to mitigate largely because the email security gateway they’d been using required extensive manual intervention nearly daily. “Our system was forcing IT staff to spend hours classifying spam, removing malicious emails, and manually managing communication channels,” Pucher said.

Additionally, PMS Group recently completed a risk assessment highlighting email security as a primary concern, especially as they worked towards ISO 27001 compliance. Achieving ISO 27001 compliance provides companies with a structured, risk-based framework for managing and protecting sensitive information that ensures the implementation of best practices to safeguard data against cyber threats, breaches, and unauthorized access.

With only static protection from their legacy email security too many threats got through. PMS Group recognized the need for more capable email security that could leverage advanced machine learning and automated threat detection to identify and stop email threats and help the security team attain ISO 27001 compliance more readily.

SOLUTION

Influenced by Pucher’s previous very positive experience with Check Point and because of Harmony Email & Collaboration’s strong machine learning capabilities, Pucher chose Harmony Email & Collaboration to protect many lines of PMS Group’s communication, including email, Microsoft Teams as well as Microsoft 365. Harmony Email & Collaboration’s cloud-native security ensures up-to-the-minute protection against evolving threats and zero-day attacks. “We tested it against the email protection of several other known providers in this space, and we saw Harmony Email & Collaboration prove itself a stronger solution,” he said.



Harmony Email & Collaboration shows its value not through marketing pages but through real-world. Once implemented, you can't imagine disconnecting it.

Simon Pucher, PMS Group's head of IT and information security



Key features that drove Pucher's decision included the advanced machine learning algorithms, automatic spam and phishing classification, graymail feature for inbox decluttering, and seamless integration with their existing Microsoft infrastructure. "The classification with the algorithms is perfect. We don't have to do anything," he said.

"The Harmony Email & Collaboration implementation was incredibly straightforward," Pucher noted. "We connected the tenants, initiated a 14-day learning period, and the system was operational with minimal effort," he said.

Pucher explained that the entire deployment took just a few minutes. "With mail flow policies created automatically and with minimal administrative overhead. You simply set up the administrator account, have a cup of coffee, and in a few minutes, it is done," he said.

OUTCOME

Harmony Email & Collaboration delivered immediate tangible benefits for PMS Group. For instance, while PMS Group maintained its existing email security gateway, Harmony Email & Collaboration manages to catch everything the legacy system misses, removing a total of 11% unwanted email, including many malicious emails, missed by their first layer of protection.

As a result, the company experienced a dramatic reduction in email-related administrative tasks and significantly improved threat detection and their overall security posture. "We barely have to do anything. My team spend just 5-10 minutes reviewing the system daily. That's compared to the hours of manual work our previous system required."

Additionally, classification algorithms proved remarkably precise, automatically identifying and managing potential threats. According to Pucher, there has been a 15% reduction in potentially malicious emails, substantial time savings for IT staff, cleaner, more efficient communication channels, and enhanced protection against business email compromise attacks.

In one notable example, while their previous email security program classified a suspicious email as clean, Harmony Email & Collaboration instead identified nine potential threat indicators on that email. "It demonstrated a superior threat detection capability," Pucher said.

Now, with cleaner inboxes, the IT team could focus on developing comprehensive phishing awareness programs. With approximately 550 user accounts currently protected by Harmony Email & Collaboration, PMS Group still sees significant potential for expanding the use of Check Point. The company is considering future integrations with collaboration tools like SharePoint and OneDrive.

For PMS Group, email threats are no longer challenging to mitigate. No more hours spent classifying spam by IT staff or hours invested in manually eliminating malicious emails or manual communication channel security management. "Harmony Email & Collaboration shows its value not through marketing pages but through real-world performance," Pucher said. "Once implemented, you can't imagine disconnecting it," he added.

ABOUT CHECK POINT

Check Point Software Technologies Ltd. (www.checkpoint.com) is a leading protector of digital trust, utilizing AI-powered cyber security solutions to safeguard over 100,000 organizations globally. Through its Infinity Platform and an open garden ecosystem, Check Point's prevention-first approach delivers industry-leading security efficacy while reducing risk. Employing a hybrid mesh network architecture with SASE at its core, the Infinity Platform unifies the management of on-premises, cloud, and workspace environments to offer flexibility, simplicity and scale for enterprises and service providers.

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