

GIMV SECURES CRITICAL INVESTMENT DATA WITH CHECK POINT CLOUDGUARD

Check Point solutions provide a single pane of glass from which to control cloud and on-premise security



Customer Profile

Gimv is a European investment company managing around €1.6 billion invested in more than 50 portfolio companies.

Challenge

- Secure critical data as the business develops its cloud IT strategy email and other attack vectors
- Simplify the task of managing an ever-changing threat landscape

Solution

- Check Point Harmony Email & Office
- Check Point Harmony Endpoint

Benefits

- Secured data as users move to Office365 and SharePoint Online
- Consolidated security architecture from one vendor, reducing costs and simplifying management
- Provided single pane of glass to manage distributed security environment

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— Kristof Poppe, IT Manager, Gimv

Overview

Gimv

Gimv is a European investment company, listed on Euronext Brussels since 1997. It invests in companies that fit into one of four investment platforms: Connected Consumer, Health & Care, Smart Industries and Sustainable Cities. It has offices in Belgium, Netherlands, France and Germany.

Business Challenge

Unearthing investment opportunities

As a business, the challenge for Gimv is to identify investment opportunities. It sees more than 1,000 companies each year, all needing a thorough examination of their investment potential.

“We exchange a lot of sensitive data, through a lot of emails,” says Kristof Poppe, IT Manager, Gimv. “Data security is critical. It’s not a question of ‘if you’re being attacked, it’s ‘when.’”

For Poppe, the task is to balance corporate security with end-user flexibility. He wants to allow Gimv staff to work from a device and location of their choice, whilst having a necessary overview of the threat landscape.”



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- Kristof Poppe, IT Manager, Gimv

Solution

Enterprise cloud protection

Gimv has worked with Check Point solutions since 2012. "We had another provider, but Check Point was the first to introduce a threat emulation feature. We tested it, were very pleased with it, and immediately put it into production," says Poppe.

Since then, the business has steadily moved to cloud, with an external data center and Office365. The transition to the cloud urged them to look for stronger security solutions that understand cloud threats.

Check Point Harmony, a family of cloud security products, is designed to prevent the latest fifth generation (Gen V) cyber-attacks targeting enterprise cloud services. The portfolio, part of the Check Point Infinity Architecture, includes Harmony Email & Office, CloudGuard Posture Management and CloudGuard Network Security. Harmony Email & Office provides Gimv with unmatched protection for their software-as-a-service (SaaS) applications.

Results

Securing the entire environment

Poppe says Check Point secures Gimv, and simplifies day-to-day operations: "The main benefit of Check Point, with our distributed environment, is that we have a single control center for everything; a single pane of glass."

The integration with the Harmony Email & Office is particularly useful, he adds: "Since we're only a small IT team, making things simple to maintain is very important. One vendor, with a comprehensive portfolio of solutions, makes security easy to manage across the entire environment, from our external data center to our remote offices."

The latest upgrade to Harmony Email & Office, he continues, was simple to install and to take into production: "We have one dashboard providing a complete overview of our Office365 mail environment. The next step is to integrate our SharePoint Online environment."

On a typical day, Gimv receives 1,000 emails an hour. Harmony Email & Office flags all suspicious mails, removing any threats before they arrive at a user's inbox.

"It's a 'set and forget' solution," Poppe states. "It gives end users the confidence to know that the mail in their mailbox has already passed security checks and is secure. Prior to Harmony Email & Office we needed to check several systems to see if all was ok. Now, with a single enquiry, we can find all the reports we need."

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