



QUICK FACTS

Customer Profile

- Leading provider of added-value solutions and information services for the financial services industry to support decision-making and prevent fraud.
- Based in Italy, with a staff of approx 1,450, CRIF offers its services to more than 1,900 financial institutions worldwide

Industry

- Financial

Check Point Solutions

- Check Point VSX systems
- Check Point UTM-1 Appliances running the following Software Blades
 - AntiVirus
 - IPS
 - URL Filtering
- Check Point Eventia Log Analyzer
- Check Point Multi-Domain Security Management Service

ROI

- Outstanding reliability and performance
- Ease of management
- Unified vision of security
- Cost reduction and flexibility through virtualization
- Great infrastructure scalability

“We can openly say that CRIF security, including LANs, servers, hardware and software systems, depends on Check Point solutions, and that these solutions have never failed to meet our expectations.”

– Carlo Romagnoli, Distributed IT Operations Manager, CRIF

CUSTOMER CHALLENGE

CRIF had undertaken an extensive virtualization project across its entire infrastructure, ultimately extended to the security layer with the following specific goals:

- Simplify IT security and management
- Reduce costs and streamline resource utilization
- Guarantee the highest reliability and an extensive protection of the network
- Gain comprehensive view over transactions and applications
- Future-proof security infrastructure with an eye on increasing virtualization

SELECTION PROCESS

Selection Criteria

- ✓ Highest reliability and performance
- ✓ Transparent security management from a centralized console
- ✓ Effective management of a mixed (virtual/physical) environment
- ✓ Ability to scale, adding new systems and services as soon as they are needed

Why Check Point

“Virtualizing our network security with Check Point, we have been able to simplify management and to drive costs down, while keeping the same high levels of performance and reliability that we’ve been used to through the years.”

– Carlo Romagnoli, Distributed IT Operations Manager, CRIF

THE CHECK POINT SOLUTION

1 Check Point VSX Appliances to Match Security and Flexibility

CRIF has deployed four VSX appliances, running dozens of virtual firewall instances, to gain control over its new virtual infrastructure. Deployment has been carried out gradually, in order to meet the growing needs of the company, as well as the growing presence of virtualization within the enterprise. Aside the VSX appliances, CRIF also counts on five clusters of physical UTM-1 appliances, running a set of software blades, providing a comprehensive and flexible security solution for the whole network. Goal of the company is to gradually increase virtualization, in order to fully reap its management and economical benefits.

2 Centralized Control Eases Management, Increases Security

Centralized management is extremely important for CRIF, due to the highly confidential nature of the business-critical information that the company handles. Therefore, CRIF puts a great value on both real-time visibility over transactions and the ability to run a variety of analytics. The company deployed Eventia Log Analyzer to have a further level of management and control over data and information which run on the corporate network. Both real time and historical reports are now available to the IT staff for a more comprehensive visibility over the complete system.

3 Easier Management to Open New Development Perspectives

Through the virtualization of security, ongoing management has become significantly easier and more effective. Systems, application and transactions can be easily monitored for a single point of control, gaining an ongoing, comprehensive visibility over the complete infrastructure. This has allowed the IT staff to redistribute and streamline its available resources to focus on critical tasks: a Business Continuity project has been defined and deployed, in order to further increase system availability and to ensure operations also in case of technical failure.

CHECK POINT BENEFITS

Excellent Performance, Outstanding Reliability

- Security is paramount for a company whose core business is handling confidential information.
- “Through the years, we’ve been used to the highest levels of performance and reliability from Check Point.” —Romagnoli.
- Check Point has helped CRIF to securely grow—up to a 1,200-strong server farm, mixing both virtual and physical machines.

Effective Resource Utilization

- Virtualized security has helped CRIF make a more effective use of available resources.
- Performance and reliability are guaranteed, management is easier and costs have been significantly reduced.
- “Check Point solutions never failed to meet our expectations” —Romagnoli.

Easy and Effective Unified Management

- Check Point allows for a unified management of both virtual and physical systems
- Transactions, systems and applications can be effectively monitored via a single console.
- Ongoing tasks have been significantly reduced: valuable time has been converted into more strategic activities and projects.

SUMMARY

Secure • Effective • Flexible

- Highest reliability and performance are guaranteed
- The infrastructure allows for optimal resource utilization
- Features and functionalities can be added as soon as they are requested

Easy and Effective Management

- The combination of virtualization and software blades provides great flexibility
- Real time visibility and log analytics are guaranteed
- Time saved from ongoing management has been converted into strategic projects