

CLOUDGUARD APPLICATION SECURITY PROTECTS SATELLITE IMAGES 24X7

VITO's Remote Sensing Unit constantly processes and exposes satellite imagery for a variety of end-user applications and calls on Check Point technology to protect its work



Customer Profile

The Remote Sensing Unit is part of VITO, the Flemish Institute for Technological Research

Challenge

- Distributing its findings to nearly every country in the world leaves the organization's applications and websites vulnerable to cyberattack
- Required comprehensive web and API protection that offered more than a traditional CloudGuard Application Security

Solution

- Check Point CloudGuard Application Security

Benefits

- Protected websites 24x7 with daily Web Application checks backed by advanced machine learning engines and algorithms
- Minimized false positives while requiring no heavy maintenance
- Simplified security management while CloudGuard Application Security's scalability will continue to support this growing organization

"For us, Check Point is very, very important. Cyber security is one of our key assets and it is essential that it is stable and well maintained."

– Adri Timmermans, IT Systems Co-ordinator, Remote Sensing Unit, VITO

Overview

VITO's Remote Sensing Unit

VITO is the Flemish Institute for Technological Research which receives and processes data from satellites. A crucial part of its sustainability business is the independent Remote Sensing Unit, which processes and archives satellite images and converts the data into real actionable information on matters affecting our planet, from vegetation and agriculture to global disasters.

Business Challenges

Need to solve issues of global vulnerability

Twenty years ago, VITO's Remote Sensing Unit was formed to deal with the data on global vegetation received from the SPOT4 satellite. It has now grown into an independent 100-strong team, running an environment with around 650 physical servers, 7PB of data.

The unit relies on cloud technology for projects that deal with a huge number of images and need a lot of processing power. Because of the global significance of the data, its output is delivered to almost every country in the world, which leaves it vulnerable to cyberattack on many fronts.



“Check Point CloudGuard Application Security was up and running in a few hours. We just received a virtual machine from Check Point with everything on it and it was very fast.”

– Adri Timmermans, IT Systems
Co-ordinator, Remote Sensing Unit,
VITO

Solution

Specialized cloud-native protection

The organization has been using Check Point products for ten years and has now implemented the highly scalable Check Point CloudGuard Application Security solution which it uses to protect its internal cloud systems and a Hadoop cluster of 150 physical servers used for calculations.

After checking out various solutions, with the help of Check Point partner, TrueGEN, the unit had the cloud native CloudGuard Application Security solution up and running in just hours. It then migrated its sites from the old reverse proxy to a new NGINX reverse proxy. The fast and easy installation of the product and automation are key values.

“We were looking for a company that we could trust and that would be agile and supportive to our requirements. We took on Check Point CloudGuard Application Security because some of our websites require high-quality extra security,” says Adri Timmermans, IT Systems Co-ordinator at VITO’s Remote Sensing Unit. “We also needed a Web Application Firewall that would be more specialized in dealing with threats to our applications and sites. Results came very fast and it was easy to show management the security incidents that were being blocked.”

Benefits

Peace of mind from 24x7 surveillance

CloudGuard Application Security works 24x7 to provide protection and constant compliance, even out of office hours.

“For us the most important thing is that our websites are safe and secure,” says Timmermans. “We have some websites that have been developed a couple of years ago so we have to be careful with them. That is why it is very important that we have a Web Application Firewall checking all traffic 24/7.”

Backed by advanced machine learning engines and algorithms, easily administered CloudGuard Application Security protection enables the unit to expand its global business, safe in the knowledge that its data and websites are protected 24x7. Among its current projects that benefit from this extra security is the use of drones to photograph potato fields for improved agricultural practices and the use of satellite data to track the movement of locusts in North Africa, space-based vegetation policy support for the European Commission, and many other data-heavy endeavors.



CloudGuard Application Security also enabled the unit to cope well with the COVID-19 pandemic, as Timmerman explains: “We use VPN solutions from Check Point so for us it was very simple to scale up and ensure that everyone had access to the tools they need to work from home. We had it under control from day one.

“For us, Check Point is very, very important. Cyber Security is one of our key assets and it is essential that it is stable, well-maintained and does its job.”

“For me the most important thing is that our websites are safe. That is why it is very important that there is a Web Application check every day.”

– Adri Timmermans, IT Systems
Co-ordinator, Remote Sensing Unit,
VITO



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