



DeFacto



One Cloud. One Firewall Vendor. How DeFacto Secured a Three-Year Co-located Data Center Exit

INDUSTRY:
Retail

HEADQUARTERS:
Istanbul, Turkey

COMPANY SIZE:
12,000 employees

OVERVIEW

DeFacto is one of Turkey's largest fashion retailers, selling through three channels: roughly 500 stores across Turkey, Kazakhstan, Iraq, Egypt, and other markets, its own e-commerce websites and mobile apps, and third-party online marketplaces. The company employs about 12,000 people, some 2,000 of them at its Istanbul headquarters. Its applications — nearly 500 running on virtual machines, plus a container estate on OpenShift — served customers from a colocation data center until a three-year cloud migration moved them to Huawei Cloud.

OUR SOLUTION

Hybrid Mesh Network Security

CHALLENGE

When DeFacto set out to leave its on-premises data center behind and re-architect its systems for the cloud, the Turkish fashion retailer needed to find a firewall that could follow.

DeFacto sells its fashion through roughly 500 stores across Turkey, Kazakhstan, Iraq, and Egypt; as well as its e-commerce sites and mobile apps, and third-party marketplaces. It employs 12,000 people, about 2,000 of them at its headquarters. Nearly all staff depend on applications that, until recently, ran from its on-premises data center.

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Tufan Uzun, network and security manager at DeFacto

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Three years ago, the company began its journey to move its on-premises data center to the cloud. While the cost and availability drove part of the decision, so did the things an on-premises data center can't provide: capacity on-demand and the ability to scale to meet business demands. The team was not planning a mere lift-and-shift of its servers and apps either. Instead, DeFacto set out to build a fully cloud-native data center: virtual machines, containers on OpenShift, and scaling when the traffic demanded.

The scope was substantial: roughly 500 applications on virtual machines, plus its containerized applications on OpenShift. The migration ran in three phases across three Huawei Cloud locations, two in Istanbul, one in Egypt.

When it came to securing its environment, DeFacto had long depended on Check Point firewalls for its on-premises data centers. And DeFacto's near 15-years of experience with Check Point had been excellent. "We are very satisfied using Check Point," said Tufan Uzun, network and security manager at DeFacto. "Check Point firewall management is user-friendly, provides near perfect logging, an effective command line tool for troubleshooting, and support is top notch," Uzun said.

While the team was extremely satisfied with Check Point firewall performance in their legacy data center, they still set out to identify the best firewall provider for their new cloud-based data centers. And the team wanted to compare firewalls based on their performance and security capabilities, and the requirements were clear: They included full application-layer security that would close the Layer 4 gap the cloud's native controls that are commonly left open, consistent management with the on-premises environment his team already ran, and they demanded the responsive support they'd come to expect from Check Point.

SOLUTION

DeFacto chose Huawei Cloud as their cloud computing and infrastructure provider to replace the colocation data center. Today, DeFacto's Huawei Cloud environment spans three deployments across Huawei's Istanbul and Egypt regions. While Huawei Cloud provided native network controls, such as access control lists (subnet-level, Layer 4) and security groups (host-level, Layer 4). "These native cloud controls are necessary but not sufficient," explained Uzun. "They organize and segment traffic but don't inspect it at the application layer, which is one of the reasons we sought a firewall for our cloud clusters," he said. That meant the cloud native controls could manage and see where traffic was going, it couldn't inspect the traffic for anything dangerous.

"Without a firewall, you cannot secure the cloud network," Uzun said. The search for a new cloud provider didn't last long. Only one firewall supplier supported the Huawei Cloud environment: Check Point.

The DeFacto technology team was very confident with the choice. The team had trusted Check Point gateways in their colocation data center close to 15 years, Uzun said. Extending that relationship to the cloud was continuity, not compromise. "Check Point gateways have proven very effective and manageable," he said.

Check Point Cloud Firewall provides DeFacto with advanced, multi-layered security to defend against emerging threats. With AI-powered prevention, auto-scaling, and seamless integration with existing controls, Check Point Cloud Firewall provides unmatched threat prevention for applications, workloads, and data. By unifying policy management and threat intelligence across environments, Check Point Cloud Firewall enables security teams to confidently protect their infrastructure while keeping operational overhead low.

At each regional Huawei Cloud location, Check Point Cloud Firewall was deployed and went live in a week, including testing. "The deployment went extremely easily," Uzun said. Today, DeFacto runs eight clusters of Check Point gateways. Five are physical gateways protecting the headquarters' network and other remaining on-premises locations. Three are the newly deployed Check Point Cloud Firewalls protecting the three Huawei Cloud networks in Istanbul and Egypt.

The two biggest drivers behind that success proved to be the management consistency of Check Point's on-premises and cloud firewalls; and the second driver proved to be the support from Check Point and Check Point's services partner in Turkey. "Both showed up for us, together the level of support they provided helped us be very successful with our cloud deployment," Uzun said.

OUTCOME

Following first moving their e-commerce applications to the cloud, then their OpenShift environment, and finally their remaining virtual workloads, DeFacto's three-year migration from their on premises to cloud data centers is all but complete. In a few months, Uzun explained the colocation data center will be shut down completely.

Just as Check Point Cloud Firewall management capabilities transferred seamlessly from on-premises to cloud, so did the security capabilities, Uzun explained. Each cloud location's firewall cluster was designed, installed, and tested inside a week, so protection was ready ahead of the workloads it needed to cover.

"We use all of Check Point's Layer 1 to Layer 7 features in Huawei Cloud, the same we do in Check Point's physical firewalls," Uzun said. "Segmentation, access control, and application-layer inspection all behave the same way in the cloud as they do on premises," he added.

That fit is by design. Check Point Cloud Firewall is built to run one security policy to implement across cloud and on premises alike: the same rules, the same enforcement, the same management. For a team that had spent a decade running Check Point in the data center, adopting it on Huawei Cloud meant extending what already worked, not learning something new.

Check Point Cloud Firewall also closed the gap the cloud's native controls left open. Access control lists and security groups filter at Layer 4 — they sort traffic by where it's going. Check Point inspects it, up to the application layer, catching threats those controls can't see. And because it deploys as a cloud-native gateway, DeFacto quickly stood up each regional cluster: designed, installed, and tested in a single week, ready ahead of the workloads it would protect.

Day-to-day operations did not change, either. The cloud and on-premises console, logs, and troubleshooting workflow works across both. For a team that also owns networking, load balancing, and web security, that consistency is worth everything.

Scale also didn't prove burdensome. DeFacto now runs eight firewall clusters across two countries: five physical locations, three in the cloud with each protecting roughly 500 applications and OpenShift containers for a workforce spread across headquarters and 500 stores. One team manages all of it from one console, the same way as before. And, finally, support proved to be a strong differentiator. DeFacto has replaced vendors before over support that fell short. "We work with many other security and network vendors. Without a doubt, the best company when it comes to support is Check Point," Uzun said.

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About Check Point Software Technologies Ltd.

Check Point Software Technologies Ltd. is a global cyber security leader protecting more than 100,000 organizations worldwide. Its mission is to secure enterprises' AI transformation. With a prevention-first approach and an open ecosystem architecture, Check Point helps organizations block advanced threats, prioritize exposures, and automate security operations across complex digital environments. The unified architecture simplifies protection across hybrid networks, multi-cloud environments, digital workspaces, and AI systems. Structured around four strategic pillars, Hybrid Mesh Network Security, Workspace Security, Exposure Management, and AI Security, Check Point delivers consistent protection and visibility across multivendor environments, enabling organizations to reduce risk, improve efficiency, and accelerate innovation without increasing complexity.

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