

REGIONE MARCHE POWERS UP SECURITY WITH QUANTUM SECURITY GATEWAYS AND VIRTUAL SYSTEMS FROM CHECK POINT



Customer Profile

Regione Marche is the local government body governing the Italian region of Marche.

Challenge

- Consolidate multiple firewall solutions from multiple vendors
- Improve management consistency across environments and locations
- Ensure security continuity for the business and services

Solution

- Check Point Quantum Security Gateways
- Check Point Virtual Systems
- Check Point R80 Security Management

Benefits

- Consolidated multiple point solutions and clusters into a powerful, scalable security infrastructure
- Unified control with a single view across a combined physical and virtual environment
- Reduced troubleshooting time from days to less than an hour

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Overview

One of Italy's 20 regions, Marche is in central Italy, bordering the Adriatic Sea. Its five provinces and 239 municipalities are governed by the Regione Marche, with the regional capital at Ancona.

Business Challenge

Ensuring Security Management Consistency

The Regione Marche manages a wide range of administrative, financial, healthcare, and political services for the area's provinces. In addition to hosting its own services, the Regione Marche's IT organization also hosts services for the regional healthcare system and local authorities. They not only ensure service continuity and access, they also secure sensitive healthcare, financial, and other data.

Cyber threats frequently target Regione Marche. Attacks range from phishing and website defacement to malware and advanced persistent threats aimed at data exfiltration. Five firewall clusters—composed of different systems from multiple vendors—were deployed across three locations. With multiple management tools and dashboards, it was difficult to ensure security consistently across the region.



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"It was a battle to manage our security infrastructure consistently," said Domenico Cacciari, Network Administrator for Regione Marche. "We didn't have a unified view of our infrastructure, and if something went wrong, troubleshooting was crazy. We began looking for a centralized security solution that could be managed from a single pane of glass."

SOLUTION

The Power of Consolidation

The team's experience with multiple Fortinet, Cisco, WatchGuard and SonicWall firewalls led them to consider other vendors. They needed industry-leading protection with the ability to set policies for individual virtual security systems and single-pane management. After considering several options, they chose Check Point.

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Regione Marche deployed three Check Point Quantum Security Gateways—one in each data center. Quantum Security Gateways deliver secure, multi-gigabit threat prevention and zero-day protection throughput. They also include over 60 security services backed by the Check Point Infinity Architecture and ThreatCloud AI technologies which prevent threats with a low false positive rate.

"We're using all of the Quantum Security Gateway protections," said Cacciari. "In particular, Identity Awareness, URL Filtering, and Content Filtering are invaluable for supporting multiple navigation profiles for the healthcare services we secure."

Check Point Virtual Systems enabled Regione Marche to consolidate its infrastructure by creating multiple virtualized security gateways on each Quantum Security Gateway. The Virtual System Extension (VSX) feature provides comprehensive protection for VLANs across the Regione Marche's locations, securely connecting them to shared resources and each other. It also allows the IT team to easily manage custom security policies based on each organization's requirements. Check Point's Virtual System Load Sharing (VSLS) capability reliably enhances scalability by distributing traffic loads across the cluster machines.

Unified Control and Visibility

Check Point's cyber security platform, R80, delivers Security Management that unifies security policy control and the visibility of threats across the entire Regione Marche infrastructure. The team now has a single pane of glass visibility into physical and virtual elements across three data centers. They can tailor policies for each constituent's virtual system and change policy on the fly if needed.



"With R80, we immediately gained management consistency with a single view across our environment," said Cacciari. "We can manage everything using the same process. It's also proving to be highly scalable and reliable, which makes our job so much easier."

Benefits

Agility On Time, Anytime

Regione Marche had begun implementing the Check Point solutions when COVID hit. Within a day, most employees began working from home, which increased the need for strong security, VPN access, and high bandwidth.

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When software licenses expired on an existing firewall, the team had to quickly migrate it to Check Point. In less than a week, they migrated more than 300 rules.

"The process went much faster and easier than we had expected," said Cacciari. "The Check Point gateways maintained firewall security and provided the VPN connection for the migration. Everything went perfectly."

Time Savings Add to the Bottom Line

In the past, the team could spend two or three days simply troubleshooting an issue. Now with SmartEvent, they have a single view into logs. SmartEvent correlates events, identifies critical events, and delivers forensics—allowing the team to respond in less than an hour.

Policy management is also streamlined. With unified visibility, Cacciari can check, manage, and know exactly what's happening with each virtual environment. Identity Awareness eliminated the need to manage source IP addresses. The team simply moves policies at the user level through Active Directory.

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