Almac Group Takes Enterprise, Cloud, Hybrid/Remote Work, And IoT Security To The Next Level

INDUSTRY
Healthcare

HEADQUARTERS
Craigavon, Ireland

COMPANY SIZE
5,001 – 10,000 employees

OVERVIEW

The Almac Group is a contract development and manufacturing organization to global pharmaceutical and biotech companies.

OUR SOLUTION

- Quantum — On-Premises Security
- Harmony — Workspace Security
- CloudGuard — Cloud Security

> We rely on Check Point. Their solutions and services are always evolving to give us a dynamic edge against advanced threats. I certainly recommend them as a vendor of choice.
>
> *Stephen Park, Principal Security Information Specialist, Almac Group*

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CHALLENGE

The company's on-premises security architecture had been built on traditional firewalls augmented by a third-party intrusion prevention system (IPS) service. Over time, the collection grew to multiple firewalls with their own management interfaces, as well as aging proxy servers. When the pandemic occurred, it created a new work-from-home environment, which greatly increased the demand for VPN connectivity and throughput.

The pandemic also escalated cyber threats. Malicious actors targeted remote offices and devices that they perceived to be vulnerable. Almac Group also relies on business-critical manufacturing and laboratory technologies—Internet of Things (IoT), industrial control system (ICS), operational technology (OT), and supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) systems and devices. Almac Group always wanted to continue with the highest level of security as they expanded. During this time, the company was also opening new locations that needed safe connectivity to the Internet and corporate resources.

All of these changes accelerated Almac Group's cloud journey. They moved on-premises email to cloud-based Microsoft Office 365 and began migrating development workloads into AWS.

"Rapid change required more security functionality and flexibility," said Stephen Park, Principal Security Information Specialist for Almac Group. "We needed to extend robust security, scale protection of our IoT environments, and consolidate management with better visibility. We turned to Check Point."

SOLUTION

Almac Group consolidated its infrastructure using Quantum Security Gateways to secure the network, Harmony Connect SASE to secure remote and branch office users, and CloudGuard Network Security to secure cloud environments. Quantum Gateways deliver up to 1.5 Tbps of threat prevention performance with on-demand scalability. SandBlast Zero Day Protection and more than 60 innovative services prevent fifth-generation cyber attacks with 24/7, real-time threat intelligence from ThreatCloud. Quantum DLP and compliance blades help Almac Group protect privileged data while ensuring adherence to compliance requirements.

" Quantum compliance blade gives us the visibility we need for meeting standards, such as ISO 27001 and CIS Benchmarks," said Park. "It also helps us align our Check Point rule bases with best practices."

Using Quantum IoT Protect, Almac Group enables zero-trust protection for its IoT/OT/ICS/SCADA environments. Quantum IoT Protect identifies all IoT devices on the network and assesses their risk. It prevents unauthorized access to and from these devices through zero-trust segmentation, and it blocks threats to IoT devices. Zero-trust policy and run-time protection can be tailored per device—securing them from the moment they first connect to the network.

"We use Quantum IoT Protect in conjunction with a third-party network detection and response solution," said Park. "With visibility into all devices and their profiles, we have detailed information for applying dynamic policy rules and protecting them."

CloudGuard Network Security provides advanced threat prevention and automated security for Almac Group's cloud assets. Data is protected from the most sophisticated attacks. Automation supports rapid deployment and automation of developer CI/CD workflows, while unified management makes it fast and easy for the security team to ensure consistent policy across on-premises and cloud environments.

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OUTCOME

The biggest benefit we receive from Check Point is the security it delivers," said Park. "We gained advanced protection against known and emerging threats like the Log4j exploit. At the same time, we've been able to streamline security across our remote locations, network and Internet connections, and a universe of specialized IoT devices."

Now, threats are detected and stopped before they can do damage. SandBlast zero-day Protection is a cloud-based CPU and OS-level sandbox that prevents infection from the most dangerous exploits, zero-day threats, and targeted attacks. SandBlast also performs Threat Extraction— removing executable content to proactively protect against known and unknown threats contained in documents. The end result is true zero-day prevention with fast delivery of safe files to users.

Check Point's security management platform eliminated the challenges associated with juggling multiple security solutions. Now, the Almac Group has single-pane-of-glass visibility with a cloud-based solution, making it easy to manage security for all global locations.

"Because Check Point is so easy to use, we implemented almost everything else ourselves," said Park. "Smart logging and reporting make our job so much easier."

Today, the Almac Group security team easily manages security while providing a consistent experience for all users across all locations. Whether defending the perimeter, cloud, IoT implementations, or proprietary data— they trust Check Point completely.

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About Check Point Software Technologies Ltd.

Check Point Software Technologies Ltd. (www.checkpoint.com) is a leading protector of digital trust, utilizing AI-powered cyber security solutions to safeguard over 100,000 organizations globally. Through its Infinity Platform and an open garden ecosystem, Check Point's prevention-first approach delivers industry-leading security efficacy while reducing risk. Employing a hybrid mesh network architecture with SASE at its core, the Infinity Platform unifies the management of on-premises, cloud, and workspace environments to offer flexibility, simplicity and scale for enterprises and service providers.

LEARN MORE

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