CHECK POINT™ | **EXCMO. AYUNTAMIENTO DE MARBELLA**

Marbella City Council Makes Smart Security Moves on Its Journey To Becoming a Smart City

INDUSTRY	HEADQUARTERS	COMPANY SIZE	PARTNER
Government	Marbella, Spain	150,000 Residents	Telefonica Tech

OVERVIEW

Boasting a nearly perfect climate and a long list of high-profile residents, the city of Marbella is one of the most popular destinations on Spain's Costa del Sol. Officially, 150,000 people make Marbella their home, but the population more than doubles during peak tourism months. Thanks to its distinguished commitment to sustainability and digitization, Marbella is only the third city to be designated as a Smart Tourist Destination by the Institute of Spanish Tourism Quality.

OUR SOLUTION

Quantum
Deep Learning & AI Driven Network Security

Harmony
Highest Level of Security for Remote Users

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>
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CHALLENGE

Jose Alonso Ayllon Gutiérrez, Head of New Technology Services, is responsible for securing Marbella's IT systems, documentation, digital assets and citizen data. As the city was in the process of becoming a smart city, its IT infrastructure was in a state of flux. Ushering in its new digital era meant launching tourist-friendly apps and connected devices, which introduced significant new cybersecurity risks. Gutiérrez and his team needed to secure internet access at 50 locations, 1,500 workstations and more than 700 mobile devices — not to mention the city's 3,700 employees, who are spread across 120 offices.

"We needed to find solutions that protect our citizens and assets, meet national compliance requirements, adapt easily and simplify security management," said Gutiérrez. "That's not easy to do within the budget of a city council." To ensure a secure transition, and adhere to compliance frameworks like the National Security Framework of Spain (ENS), the city's New Technology Services team sought to gain visibility of its expanding digital footprint.

SOLUTION

Gutiérrez chose Check Point Quantum Security Gateways to protect the city's network from zero-day exploits and other advanced threats. "The Quantum Security Gateways are some of the most useful solutions," said Gutiérrez. "As a perimeter barrier, they show us everything happening on the network." His team leverages the user-friendly solution's full range of security capabilities. Quantum's Intrusion Prevention System (IPS) offers protection against everyday threats, while SandBlast Threat Prevention stops zero-day exploits and evasion-resistant malware. "Configuration is simple, and it doesn't require much time or effort for our technical staff to ensure a high level of protection," he said.

Given the number of connected devices accessing Marbella's network, implementing a layered approach to gain the highest level of security for the city's workstations, tablets and laptops was critical. With Check Point Harmony Endpoint, Gutiérrez and his team gained phishing, malware and ransomware protection for Marbella's users and their devices. He also opted for Check Point Harmony Mobile to ensure the cyber health of employee mobile devices, apps and operating systems.

Next, Gutiérrez's team implemented Check Point Harmony Email & Collaboration to secure the city's Microsoft 365 deployment. The integrated solution delivered a new level of visibility into email usage across the city. "Harmony Email & Collaboration is giving us important information about when and where users log in," said Gutiérrez. "If we see multiple logins in a short timeframe, or logins from other countries, it immediately alerts us to misuse and potential threats."

Given the ongoing reality of remote work, he also recognized the importance of providing secure network access to off-premises employees and contractors. This led him to implement Check Point Harmony Connect, a secure access service edge (SASE) solution that allows his team to segment network and application access based on roles, responsibilities and device trust. "Managing our Harmony solutions through the Check Point Infinity Portal is simple and gives us visibility of users and control over how assets are accessed," he said.

Gutiérrez confirmed that Check Point Software's solutions are provided by Telefónica, which recently won the public tender to interconnect all the municipal sites and, through its digital business unit Telefónica Tech, is responsible for the implementation and support of the solution from its Security Operations Centers (SOCs).

OUTCOME

Marbella's investment in security has paid enormous dividends in the form of greater security awareness among its employees — and peace of mind for Gutiérrez's team. "This allows us to grow and achieve our objectives," said Gutiérrez. "The best investment is in solutions that allow us to sleep at night." From an operational standpoint, the deployment is simple and intuitive, and the team now has full threat visibility across its networks, email servers and endpoints — all through a single pane of glass. "With little prior knowledge or training needed, our team now has a snapshot of everything happening at any given point in time," he said.

Thanks to Check Point's seamless, unobtrusive coverage, the IT team has discovered and remedied poor user practices and identified previously unknown threats. But, just as threat actors never stop refining their tactics, Marbella's partnership with Check Point is ongoing, and the city continues to improve its security and compliance posture over time. Employees are taking advantage of Check Point's training courses to enhance their security skills and fully maximize the city's new security capabilities. And because non-technical stakeholders now better understand the importance of a top-down approach to security, Gutiérrez has been able to champion additional initiatives — and get additional funding — to safeguard the city's digital assets.

Overall, Gutiérrez couldn't be happier with how Check Point has meshed with Marbella's workflows, security needs and budgetary considerations. "Check Point products have made it possible to have an easy-to-configure environment with strong security guarantees — and at a really economical price compared to other solutions," said Gutiérrez. But for him, the human element is equally important, and the working relationship with Check Point has been yet another reason to trust the provider. "The best thing about Check Point is its people," he said. With Check Point's dedicated and knowledgeable support team, he knows the city always has a trusted cybersecurity ally in its corner.

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About Telefonica Tech

Telefónica Tech (www.telefonicatech.com/en) is the leading company in digital transformation. It offers a wide range of integrated technological services and solutions in Cyber Security, Cloud, IoT, Big Data, Artificial Intelligence and Blockchain.

ABOUT CHECK POINT

Check Point Software Technologies Ltd. (www.checkpoint.com) is a leading provider of cyber security solutions to corporate enterprises and governments globally. Check Point Infinity's portfolio of solutions protects enterprises and public organizations from 5th generation cyber-attacks with an industry leading catch rate of malware, ransomware and other threats. Infinity comprises three core pillars delivering uncompromised security and generation V threat prevention across enterprise environments: Check Point Harmony, for remote users; Check Point CloudGuard, to automatically secure clouds; and Check Point Quantum, to protect network perimeters and datacenters, all controlled by the industry's most comprehensive, intuitive unified security management; Check Point Horizon, a prevention-first security operations suite. Check Point protects over 100,000 organizations of all sizes.

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