

Ultima Enables Employees with On-the-Go Security

Check Point Harmony SASE Protects Ultima's Laptops from Advanced Threats of Ransomware in and out of the office



INDUSTRY

Technology

HEADQUARTERS

UK

COMPANY SIZE

201-500 employees

OVERVIEW

Ultima Business Solutions provides end-to-end IT services and solutions to customers in the United Kingdom. The company's "cloud-first" focus helps customers securely migrate to the cloud with best-of-breed technologies, consulting, and managed services—freeing them to focus on their core businesses.

OUR SOLUTION



CHALLENGE

Ultima uses new solutions and technologies before recommending them to its customers. That strategy has paid off over the past 25 years as customers repeatedly turn to Ultima as their trusted advisor. Ultima is also a Check Point partner and has used Check Point Harmony Firewalls, Harmony Endpoint Security, and other technologies to secure its own business and its customers' organizations.



Check Point Harmony SASE provides us with confidence with an extra layer of security. It does more than just protect devices—it also helps us protect and enhance our reputation as a managed services provider.

Chris Watkins, Solutions Architect for Security, Ultima Business Solutions



As the company moved its operations to the cloud, it wanted to extend protection to its mobile devices. When salespeople and consultants were in the office, devices were well-protected through Ultima's on-premises firewall and other security solutions. When users returned to the office from being in the field, and the on-premises solutions detected malware, they would alert the security team, which could remediate the device. But when users were out in the field, the security team had no visibility into these devices. Even more worrisome, users weren't aware of whether or not their devices were being attacked because there were few obvious signs.

"We know of the advanced threats that our devices face when they leave the office," said Chris Watkins, Solutions Architect in Security at Ultima. "We needed visibility into what's going on with them and the ability to extend the same level of on-premises protection to them in the field."

SOLUTION

Colin Prime-Moore, Chief Technology Officer at Ultima, and the Ultima security team collaborated to find the best way to protect mobile devices. They chose Check Point Harmony SASE to extend their existing on-premises Check Point capabilities to all Windows and Mac devices that aren't attached to internal systems.

Check Point Harmony SASE provides network perimeter security as a cloud service. Laptop traffic is sent to the cloud, where the traffic is inspected for zero day malware filtered for inappropriate sites, and content and policies are enforced and logged, giving Ultima always-on, always-updated protection for users off the company network.

The Ultima team conducted a proof of concept with Harmony SASE and immediately found viruses, began blocking malicious sites, and analyzing suspicious files on the company's mobile devices. It deployed Harmony SASE through Microsoft System Center Configuration Manager and gained immediate, centralized visibility into all covered devices.

"Deployment was easy—we didn't have to do anything," said Watkins. "It was completely automated. Now we can protect multiple devices for 450 employees."



We know exactly what's happening, and we don't have to keep a close eye on it because we're confident that it's working well. The goal is to not have to touch it at all.

Colin Prime-Moore, Chief Technology Officer, Ultima



OUTCOME

Ultima integrated Harmony SASE with its existing Check Point solutions, centralizing management. The team now has complete visibility into devices when they are outside of the office security perimeter. A single security policy seamlessly protects both on-premises and mobile devices. Harmony SASE prevents mobile devices from downloading suspicious files, blocks access to malicious websites, and keeps bots from damaging laptops. Alerts notify the security team when it identifies a high-risk file or event.

“We know exactly what’s happening,” said Prime-Moore, “and we don’t have to keep a close eye on it because we’re confident that it’s working well. The goal is to not have to touch it at all.”

Ultima is implementing an internal initiative to unify workspaces, applications, and teams to further empower users. In the past, employees couldn’t use personal apps on company devices because it was so difficult to secure them. Now, with Harmony SASE and other mobile security and rights management solutions, Ultima is embracing greater openness while significantly reducing risk. Because it’s not disruptive, mobile users don’t know that Harmony SASE is running. Meanwhile, the security team gets the data they need to better protect the company.

“We want to enable employees and maximize their productivity,” said Prime-Moore. “Now we can sandbox the business environment away from the personal environment with advanced apps, supporting operating systems, and other security measures. Users can do what they need to do, and we can monitor, escalate, and alert on any suspicious activity.”

Ultima launched its managed services business using Check Point solutions almost two decades ago. Harmony SASE represents a great solution for customers who are using Check Point solutions and need to extend security policy to roaming users. For Ultima customers who aren’t currently using Check Point solutions, Ultima can now demonstrate how easy the solution and its management portal are to use, and can quantify the value it gets out of using the solution.

“Cloud is the future, and Harmony SASE lets us offer customers a flexible, service-based model for a variety of advanced security services,” said Prime-Moore. “Check Point enables us to bring new services to market and introduce customers to the value of our offerings without the need to go through painful deployment

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Colin Prime-Moore, Chief Technology Officer, Ultima

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Ultima continues to expand its security strategy. One of its next steps is to go beyond securing devices to secure data wherever it rests or travels. It is exploring various advanced apps and Check Point MTP to secure smartphones.

“Check Point Harmony SASE gives us confidence with an essential layer of security,” said Watkins. “We’re covering all of the bases, so customers also can be confident in our services and stay protected even when they roam. Check Point does more than just protect roaming users—it also helps us protect and enhance our reputation as a managed services provider.”

ABOUT CHECK POINT

Check Point Software Technologies Ltd. (www.checkpoint.com) is a leading AI-powered, cloud-delivered cyber security platform provider protecting over 100,000 organizations worldwide. Check Point leverages the power of AI everywhere to enhance cyber security efficiency and accuracy through its Infinity Platform, with industry-leading catch rates enabling proactive threat anticipation and smarter, faster response times. The comprehensive platform includes cloud-delivered technologies consisting of Check Point Harmony to secure the workspace, Check Point CloudGuard to secure the cloud, Check Point Quantum to secure the network, and Check Point Infinity Platform Services for collaborative security operations and services.

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