Bitdefender

University of Guanajuato advances to cohesive cybersecurity strategy

Large university in Mexico centralizes security environment to provide better endpoint protection, improved staff efficiency, and faster endpoint performance

With origins dating back to 1732, University of Guanajuato offers 153 academic programs, including doctorates, masters' programs, and 65 bachelor's degrees. Nearly 34,000 students attend the university's schools across 12 cities in Guanajuato.

Industry
Education

Main Campus
Guanajuato, Mexico

Employees
3,600

Results
- 40,000 threats detected in six months and without any endpoint disruption
- Endpoint performance has increased greatly
- Security staff time shifted from troubleshooting to analysis
- Significant decrease in volume of security-related trouble tickets

THE CHALLENGE

At University of Guanajuato, a large educational institution spanning four campuses in Mexico, there were a variety of cybersecurity solutions adopted by users and different departments. Not only did this limit the university security team's visibility across the infrastructure, but users did not always update their solutions, increasing the risk of threats and disruptions.

To provide the university with a more cohesive, consolidated cybersecurity strategy, the security team evaluated solutions from Bitdefender, ESET, Kaspersky, and McAfee.

Flavio Herrera, Director, Networking and Security, University of Guanajuato, says, "We tested various security solutions and determined that Bitdefender GravityZone Business Security provided the best security performance. The GravityZone cloud console was the easiest to use and allowed us to centrally view and manage thousands of endpoints across a wide geographical area. With a lightweight software design, GravityZone also used less resources, which made endpoints run faster."

THE SOLUTION

Bitdefender GravityZone Business Security provides University of Guanajuato with comprehensive endpoint protection, risk management, and vulnerability assessment. Integrating machine learning and heuristics with signatures and other techniques, GravityZone protects against malware, phishing, ransomware, exploits, and zero-day attacks.

University of Guanajuato depends on GravityZone Business Security to safeguard more than 7,000 endpoints, including Microsoft Windows, Linux, and macOS workstations and servers, as well as virtual servers running Red Hat KVM, VMware vSphere, and VMware ESXi. Application environments at University of Guanajuato protected by Bitdefender include Autodesk, Microsoft Active Directory, Microsoft Azure, Microsoft Exchange, Microsoft SQL Server, and Oracle.

THE RESULTS

In the last six months alone, GravityZone detected 40,000 threats at University of Guanajuato while there was not any disruption to Bitdefender-protected endpoints.

"Bitdefender has increased the stability of our infrastructure and security of our assets and information," explains Herrera. "Since deploying GravityZone two years ago, the only attacks were ransomware on two endpoints that were not protected by Bitdefender. We have added GravityZone to those endpoints and continue to expand the pool of endpoints protected by Bitdefender."

With a small IT staff of two security analysts, Herrera appreciates the automation and management simplicity provided by GravityZone.

Herrera states, "Even though we are directly managing 7,000 endpoints compared to before, we have not needed to expand the size of our security team. With a more granular view of the infrastructure and Bitdefender's detailed reports, we now spend more time analyzing endpoint activity and less time putting out fires. We also can perform administrative tasks, such as setting up permissions and profiles, faster because GravityZone is so easy to use."

In fact, Herrera reports that the volume of security-related trouble tickets has dropped significantly since the university installed Bitdefender. Another improvement has been endpoint performance, which has increased greatly.

The relationship with Bitdefender also has contributed to the positive customer experience, according to Herrera: "The people at Bitdefender are always responsive and share excellent information with us any time we have questions or need help. Together, the quality of the Bitdefender staff and technology have given us and the users here much more confidence in the security of our infrastructure."

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Flavio Herrera, Director, Networking and Security, University of Guanajuato

Bitdefender Footprint
- Bitdefender GravityZone Business Security

IT Environment
- Autodesk
- Microsoft Azure
- Microsoft Active Directory
- Microsoft Exchange
- Microsoft SQL Server
- Oracle
- Red Hat KVM
- VMware ESXi
- VMware vSphere

Operating Systems
- Linux
- macOS
- Microsoft Windows