

# ESSEC scores high for cybersecurity

**Top higher business education institution keeps out malware, increases visibility of endpoints, and reduces security administrative time by 70 percent**



## The CHALLENGE

Fortunately for ESSEC Business School, a leading higher education and executive education institution in France, the IT team quickly stopped a ransomware attack on a file server from spreading. Although IT was successful, the experience highlighted the need for a more proactive cybersecurity solution. In addition, ESSEC's small IT team found its prior security solution was difficult and time consuming to manage, drained system performance, and required shutdown of workstations during security updates.

The IT team evaluated and conducted proof of concept (PoC) testing of different solutions and selected Bitdefender GravityZone Business Security Enterprise.

Arnaud Augustin, Head of Workstations, Servers & Storage, ESSEC, "The POC with Bitdefender went quickly and smoothly and the salespeople were great to work with. The Bitdefender cloud console was easier to navigate and use, and we were impressed with GravityZone's excellent endpoint visibility and protection."

## The Solution

ESSEC depends on GravityZone Business Security Enterprise to provide 1,500 endpoints with integrated endpoint detection and response (EDR), threat detection and prevention, and risk analytics. The school's endpoint environment includes Microsoft Windows and VMware vSphere workstations and servers, and VMware vSphere servers, as well as a Microsoft Azure cloud.



Founded in 1907, ESSEC Business School offers students and business leaders undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral degrees, as well as executive education programs. ESSEC's primary campus is in France and regional campuses are in Morocco and Singapore. ESSEC is a member of the CY Initiative of Excellence (INEX), an academic consortium comprised of 19 French universities selected by the French government to strengthen the schools' research and international programs.

### Industry

Higher Education

### Campus Location

Cergy-Pontoise, France

### Employees

1,000+ employees (IT staff, 7)

### Bitdefender Footprint

→ GravityZone Business Security Enterprise

### IT Environment

→ Microsoft Active Directory  
→ Microsoft Azure  
→ VMware vSphere

### Operating Systems

→ Linux  
→ Microsoft Windows

In addition, GravityZone's EDR capabilities continuously monitor the network to uncover suspicious activity and provide the tools needed to defend against cyberattacks.

Applications running on ESSEC's endpoints protected by GravityZone include Microsoft Active Directory, Moodle, Banner, Moovaps, and Filer.

## THE RESULTS

ESSEC has been pleased with how well GravityZone has protected its endpoints, according to Augustin: "Bitdefender has done an excellent job protecting our workstations and servers from malware. Since installing GravityZone, there have not been any attacks that have bypassed our defenses."

Increased visibility and access to richer endpoint and environmental data are key contributors to increased cybersecurity at ESSEC.

"The accurate, real-time visibility of our endpoints and EDR capabilities are major strengths of GravityZone," says Augustin, "We get more information on indicators of interest, such as suspicious lateral movements or port scanning, that often are not visible with less advanced security solutions."

"When we receive alerts about threat escalation, network discovery, credential access, or malware, it's easy to look more deeply and isolate a machine," Augustin continues. "The cloud sandboxing feature is quite exceptional because we can investigate and remediate without risk of infecting other machines. GravityZone allows us to be more proactive and act upstream of potential problems."

ESSEC's IT team frequently checks the GravityZone dashboard, which includes a real-time risk score that assesses misconfigurations, application vulnerabilities, and human risks, such as users visiting dangerous websites. The GravityZone dashboard provides alerts, as well as guidance about how to respond to risks.

Another major advantage of GravityZone is operational efficiency, states Augustin: "The GravityZone console is much more pleasant and straightforward. I like how fast and responsive GravityZone is whether I'm installing a new endpoint, policy, or update. I see changes are applied within a minute compared to the 10 or 15 minutes I've had to wait with other security solutions. Since switching to Bitdefender, we've reduced the time we spend on day-to-day security administration by 70 percent."

Looking ahead, ESSEC is considering testing GravityZone eXtended Detection & Response (XDR) to provide extended observability of its endpoint and network infrastructure, as well automated detection algorithm and guided response.

Augustin reflects, "With GravityZone, we've crossed a major threshold with protection and ease of use. We also are pleased with the responsiveness of the Bitdefender sales and customer support teams. There is a nice human, friendly touch to the interactions, which I appreciate. We look forward to continuing the relationship and exploring other Bitdefender solutions as we look to continuously harden our infrastructure as cyber-risks evolve."