



CASE STUDY

Manufacturer Leverages Leading-edge Protection for More Than a Decade



GEMÜ Gebrüder Müller Apparatebau GmbH & Co. KG is a group of companies that specialize in valve, process, and control technologies for industrial applications including sterile environments. The company has locations spanning 50 countries through a network of subsidiaries and trading partners, as well as manufacturing sites in Switzerland, France, Brazil, and China. Even with 1,600 employees and 400,000 product options, GEMÜ still retains all of the advantages of its family-business culture.

Staying Nimble and Secure

With its constant prominence in the industrial manufacturing marketplace, GEMÜ has always been diligent about ensuring its security measures keep pace with the attention it receives. Bruno Scharpfenecker, GEMÜ's systems administrator, explains, "We are all about security. Protecting our intellectual property, our private information, and the transfers between locations are all of critical importance. One of our core strengths is our product creation process—from design to manufacturing through to distribution—and it's imperative that we keep this secure but always operational. GEMÜ has a variety of location sizes: In some offices we only have a handful of employees and in others there are hundreds, so we needed a security solution that could match the scope of the operation and work identically from place to place."

Over a Decade of Protection

In 2004, GEMÜ ran a trial of the Fortinet FortiGate next-generation firewall (NGFW) against other vendors' solutions. The performance and capabilities of the FortiGate proved to be a perfect match with the company's evaluation criteria, and models from the range were deployed across all locations.

"From the outset, the FortiGate firewalls provided the protection we needed, were very intuitive to manage, quick to learn, and straightforward in terms of interpreting their findings," reflects Scharpfenecker. "It's proved to be a great product line that has continued to scale and meet our needs ever since."

Today, GEMÜ relies not only on FortiGate firewalls but further leverages the comprehensive Fortinet Security Fabric through its deployment of FortiMail VM, FortiWeb VM, FortiSandbox, FortiAP, and FortiWiFi, in conjunction with the FortiGuard Services Bundle.

"The combined set of capabilities across the entire Fortinet Security Fabric gives GEMÜ a significant security advantage."

– Bruno Scharpfenecker, Systems Administrator, GEMÜ

Details

Customer: GEMÜ Gebrüder Müller Apparatebau GmbH & Co. KG

Industry: Manufacturing

Location: Ingelfingen-Criesbach

A Powerful Partnership

Supported by its Fortinet partner, European solutions provider d-con.net GmbH, Scharpfenecker receives administration services for GEMÜ's key worldwide data centers as well as guidance on the latest security solutions. He comments, "We've always had very good support and provision of services from d-con. Its expert staff keeps us informed of new Fortinet offerings and how they can further elevate our defenses."

He elaborates, "As an example, we were looking for a secure wireless solution when Fortinet launched the FortiWiFi range, so the timing was just faultless. FortiWiFi gives us the power of a FortiGate with the convenience that we were looking for from an integrated access point. The same is true for FortiMail and FortiSandbox, where we were looking for solutions to combat the surge in ransomware attacks. We now have full visibility across our whole infrastructure. Fortinet continues to release the perfect products to help us maintain a leading-edge security stance across all of our key threat vectors."

Making the World a Better Place

Having a unified console for all of its Fortinet solutions enables GEMÜ's IT department to operate efficiently. "The team enjoys the same familiar syntax across all our different units—from small to large—it's the same interface across everything," notes Scharpfenecker, "and that is an enormous contributor in keeping our IT organization lean and effective."

He concludes, "We have never been disappointed by a Fortinet product. The combined set of capabilities across the entire Fortinet Security Fabric gives GEMÜ a significant security advantage. Fortinet helps GEMÜ keep the lights on around the world!"

Business Impact

- Comprehensive visibility and protection over entire enterprise
- Unified interface enables IT team to be efficient and effective
- Breadth of Fortinet portfolio facilitates seamless coverage across key threat vectors

Solutions

- FortiGate Enterprise Firewalls
- FortiMail VM
- FortiWeb VM
- FortiSandbox
- FortiAP
- FortiWiFi
- FortiGuard Services Bundle

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