Hewlett Packard Enterprise

Gulf Air

Objective
Secure network egress and ingress points and protect against growing cyber threats

Approach
Deploy HPE TippingPoint Next-Generation Intrusion Prevention System, Security Management System, and Threat Digital Vaccine

IT Matters
- Reduced the number of false-positives to only two over the past six years and zero in the last three years
- Avoided thousands of dollars in potential losses due to downtime caused by threats
- Simplified security management with security policies that automatically block malicious inbound and outbound traffic
- Improved the number of blocked threats dramatically, thwarting attacks that could compromise the network

Business Matters
- Gained insights to identify potential security risks and plan security strategies to manage them appropriately
- Achieved effective security measures and controls to prevent threats that would impact business continuity
- Built a long-term partnership to continually evaluate the threat landscape and proactively implement the latest security solutions

Gulf Air bolsters network security with HPE TippingPoint

Bahrain's national carrier proactively blocks malicious inbound and outbound traffic

As the national carrier of the Kingdom of Bahrain, Gulf Air takes information security very seriously. When faced with growing threats from botnets and malicious network traffic, the airline implemented HPE TippingPoint Next-Generation Intrusion Prevention System (IPS) to protect its network perimeter and server farms.

Operating one of the largest networks in the Middle East, Gulf Air serves 39 cities in 24 countries spanning three continents. Renowned for its traditional Arabian hospitality and consistently on-time service, Gulf Air is committed to the ongoing enhancement and delivery of products and services that reflect and cater to the evolving needs of its passengers.

One of the most important ways Gulf Air cares for its passengers is ensuring the safety and security of their private information. The airline has built the highest level of trust with passengers by taking extraordinary steps to implement network and information security measures. It implemented an ISO 27001-certified Information Security Management System (ISMS) and appointed a governance board to oversee ongoing

"We value HPE's role as one of the IT security industry leaders. They are always on top of new challenges and able to help us adapt with the most effective security measures."

— Dr. Jassim Haji, Director of Information Technology, Gulf Air

information security initiatives. In 2008, Gulf Air implemented Hewlett Packard Enterprise's (HPE) TippingPoint Next-Generation IPS to protect the airline's network perimeter with inline blocking behind its firewalls.

As the threat landscape continued to evolve with new attacks coming from botnets, Gulf Air faced growing challenges to secure the egress and ingress points on its network and took the necessary steps to safeguard not only traffic from the inside out, but also from the outside in. After evaluating security solutions from a number of IT security providers, the airline once again turned to HPE for an upgraded network security solution.

Dr. Jassim Haji, director of Information Technology at Gulf Air, comments, "We made a strategic decision to stay with HPE because they are consistently ranked as one of the top leaders in enterprise security. Moreover, HPE TippingPoint has successfully protected our network for six years with superior TCO compared to other vendors. Therefore, we were confident HPE would be there for us to protect our network against the latest threats."

Enables proactive network protection

With its most recent upgrade, Gulf Air deployed two HPE TippingPoint Next-Generation Intrusion Prevention Systems for high-availability and protection of both its server farms and perimeter network. The airline also implemented the HPE TippingPoint Security Management System (SMS) for management and reporting of the TippingPoint Next-Generation IPS environment.

"As an airline, it is critical to ensure we implement the right security measures and controls to prevent any possible threats that may impact business continuity and/ or compromise the information of our passengers," says Dr. Haji. "With its intrusion prevention capabilities, TippingPoint enables us to be proactive rather than reactive, which is vital for supporting our network security objectives."

Customer at a glance

HPE services

- HP TippingPoint Next-Generation Intrusion Prevention System

- HP TippingPoint Security Management System

- HP TippingPoint Threat Digital Vaccine

Automatically blocks threats based on policy

In the past, Gulf Air relied solely on its security information and event management (SIEM) system to collect events and threats, then use firewall commands to manually block traffic. Now, with TippingPoint Next-Generation IPS, threats are automatically blocked, strengthening protection by eliminating the possibility of human errors.

TippingPoint improved the number of blocked threats dramatically, thwarting attempts to compromise Gulf Air's network through HPE TippingPoint Threat Digital Vaccine (ThreatDV) filters. These filters are developed and pushed out to the TippingPoint Next-Generation IPS to cover an entire vulnerability, not just a specific exploit. What's more, TippingPoint has produced only two false-positives in the six years it's been protecting Gulf Air's network, and zero in the last three years.

"We can now protect the Gulf Air network from possible threats based on policy rather than relying on human intervention," notes Dr. Haji. "This is extremely important as any one threat, if successful, could cost the airline thousands of dollars in lost productivity from network downtime. The accuracy and reliability of TippingPoint has proved to be far superior to what we've seen in competitive solutions, which makes TippingPoint a real strength in our network security strategy."

Dr. Haji also points out that TippingPoint SMS provides Gulf Air with valuable reports for tracking activity and trends in the IPS environment, such as top ten attacks and specific attack profiles. "The SMS reports help us identify what threats are present and potentially impacting our internal and external network," he says. "With this information we can identify the risks and plan appropriate security strategies to manage them before they have a chance to cause disruption."

Out in front of emerging security challenges

Gulf Air is committed to continually enhancing its IT network security to protect its business assets and customer information. In the near term, the airline will be activating additional features in the ThreatDV service to detect threats based on reputation. For example, ThreatDV provides the most up-to-date information on "known bad" sites and IP addresses to automatically block outbound and inbound traffic effectively. It also allows administrators to create granular security policies based on a wide range of reputation tags for each IP address and DNS name. In addition, the ThreatDV service includes malware filters to detect infiltration, exfiltration, and Command and Control (CnC) traffic.

Longer term, Gulf Air plans to integrate the TippingPoint Next-Generation IPS with its SIEM to enable even more proactive measures to thwart attacks.

"We are constantly studying additional solutions HPE has to offer that will help us secure our network, especially in light of emerging challenges such as mobility," Dr. Haji remarks. "We see HPE as one of the leaders in the security industry. They are always on top of new challenges and able to help us adapt with the most effective security measures."

Learn more at
hp.enterprisesecurity.com

f 𝕏 in ✉

Sign up for updates

★ Rate this document

Hewlett Packard
Enterprise

4AA5-6445ENW, November 2015, Rev. 1