



Ascent Consulting Services Pvt Ltd

Company Secures its New Data Centre with Fortinet's FortiGate-ONE Software Security Solution

Situation

Ascent Consulting Services Pvt Ltd, a pan-Indian technology outsourcing company, offers management solutions for human resource, finance and legal compliance departments. The range of tools they offer includes payroll, human resources, HR document management systems, labor law compliance, non-payroll expenses reimbursements and retrial trust management services. To date, more than 90,000 people use Ascent's solutions through a solid clientele base counting more than 100 customers, including companies such as Yahoo!, Reuters, SanDisk and Synopsis. Ascent's team includes a strong management team and more than 200 experienced professionals with varying specializations and technology skills.

Enjoying a 50% growth of its customer base in the past year, Ascent Consulting Services has decided to set up a new data centre to keep up with its fast-growing business. The data centre was created to store confidential information (such as customer payroll and human resource data) belonging to Ascent's clients and to serve as the network security core centre for the company's corporate network. The outsourcing company already had a few Fortinet FortiGate network security appliances in place to protect its network from spam but it decided to look for an additional security solution to guarantee a stronger and more comprehensive security infrastructure. That solution would have to provide key security functions such as intrusion prevention, Web content filtering, antispam, desktop security and application control to enable visibility at the granular level. It would also have to scale with the expansion of Ascent's operations.

According to Narayana Bhat P., IT manager for Ascent Consulting Services, "As we deal with sensitive data, including financial information coming from our customers, data integrity and privacy are top priorities for us. To cope with the increase in data traffic in terms of volume and intensity, we needed to upgrade our security infrastructure, as part of the new data centre and make sure that it would be able to address the requirements of our five year network security strategy plan."

Challenges

Rapid customer growth

Objectives

Data integrity and privacy

Deployment

FortiGate-ONE

Industry

Consulting

It was quick for us to get familiar with FortiGate-ONE as its interface is similar to the one we were accustomed to with our FortiGate appliances. Post deployment, we quickly enjoyed the advantage of integrated security functionality and centralized manageability offered by the combined HP ProCurve and Fortinet solution.

- Narayana Bhat P.

IT Manager

Ascent Consulting Services

Solution

In order to meet its new security infrastructure needs, Ascent Consulting Services conducted a comparative analysis of the various solutions available on the market, including those from Cisco, Fortinet, Juniper, Nortel and SonicWall. Thanks to the recommendations from its IT partner, FutureBizTech, Ascent Consulting Services quickly determined that the new Fortinet/HP ProCurve FortiGate-ONE was the preferred networking and security solution for the new data centre, in terms of security performance, flexibility and cost. That choice was reinforced by the fact that Ascent Consulting Services already considered Fortinet as one of its preferred network security solution providers, as a result of the good experience the company had with the FortiGate multi-threat security appliances deployed internally. In addition, Ascent Consulting Services had also done due diligence in comparing Fortinet's reviews against its competitors by referring to independent analyst reports from IDC, Gartner and Current Analysis. Those industry authoritative reports helped confirm the selection of Fortinet as Ascent's preferred security vendor.

Reinstating Ascent Consulting Services' choice of the FortiGate-ONE appliance, Shashidhar Shastry T.N., product manager for networks at FutureBizTech said, "FutureBizTech had recommended that Ascent adopt HP ProCurve chassis-based switch and Fortinet FortiGate-ONE as we were convinced it would offer them the best levels of protection in its rapidly growing network environment. As Ascent was new to HP networking solutions, we had to demonstrate that the combined solution could bring greater scalability, higher performance and suitability to its environment. We are convinced that, with this integrated deployment, Ascent can achieve greater consolidation and streamline its networking and security operations within its newly set up data centre."

Fortinet's FortiGate-ONE software is a security-hardened, purpose-built security solution dedicated to HP ProCurve's networking environment. It provides integrated, high-performance protection against dynamic security threats while simplifying companies' IT security infrastructure. FortiGate-ONE software enables ProCurve customers to deploy a single blade with integrated firewall, antivirus/antispyware, IPS, IPSec and SSL VPN, Web content filtering, antispam, application control, data loss prevention and dynamic routing for IPv4 and IPv6.

With FortiGate-ONE, customers are able to deploy HP ProCurve solutions embedded with integrated security functions accelerated by Fortinet's FortiASIC processor to enable a high performance security platform. This combined solution ensures redundancy, reduces processing time, operating expenses (OpEx) and per user pricing. With no limit to the number of ISP users, the solution can also support wireless environments, as required.

Success

The deployment of Fortinet's FortiGate-ONE appliance on the HP ProCurve platform took only one week and, as with previous deployments of Fortinet's FortiGate solutions, the installation went smoothly. The FutureBizTech team even recognized it as the 'easiest task' they had to perform in the greater network overhaul process at Ascent's premises.

Narayana Bhat P. at Ascent Consulting Services concludes: "It was quick for us to get familiar with FortiGate-ONE as its interface is similar to the one we were accustomed to with our FortiGate appliances. Post deployment, we quickly enjoyed the advantage of integrated security functionality and centralized manageability offered by the combined HP ProCurve and Fortinet solution."



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