High-tech Pharmaceutical Security

AbbVie enhances Data Center security through Role Based micro-segmentation and TrustSec.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
ABBVIE PHARMACEUTICALS
• Healthcare
• Chicago, IL, USA
• 28,000 Employees
BUSINESS CHALLENGE
• Security for shared resources within the Data Center
• PCI Compliance
• Consistency among security solution vendors throughout the organization
NETWORK SOLUTION
• Install Nexus switching
• Install centralized security policy controller
BUSINESS RESULTS
• Effective Role Based Data Center security
• Decreased PCI complexity
• Holistic solution that can extend beyond the Data Center into branches and manufacturing plants

Business Challenge

AbbVie is an Illinois based company that focuses on developing new products and ways to help people manage serious health conditions. Founded in 1888 AbbVie began life as the pharmaceutical leader, Abbott. Since then, AbbVie has grown into a global healthcare leader in more than 150 countries, employing over 28,000 individuals.

Recently, through a CxO level directive, AbbVie has begun pursuing segmentation within their Data Center. Cisco, along with Palo Alto, Checkpoint and VMware NSX, was chosen to demonstrate our capabilities. The solution needed to support a wide range of use cases from Role-Based Access Control to DC segmentation to advanced Malware filtering – all while reducing the complexity and administrative burden on IT Operations. Also paramount to this project is the effective reuse of existing Data Center infrastructure. Initially, AbbVie has hopes to roll the solution out in the Data Center but, ultimately, they would like a holistic solution that can scale beyond the Data Center into the manufacturing plants at the edge. Being an 80% virtual, 20% physical shop, the solution also needs to provide effective segmentation among both realms.

Network Solution

As part of reviewing the DC architecture to meet the segmentation and access control requirements per Cisco's best practice recommendations, the account team worked closely with the Enterprise Networks Business Entity on an assessment and PoC of the existing architecture, and how TrustSec could effectively address all stated use-cases.

As said above, the primary goal of the initial solution is to protect network elements within the Data Center. To accomplish this, Cisco Nexus 1KV switches have been positioned throughout the virtual environment along with Cisco Nexus 2K, 5K and 6K switches to provide physical segmentation. Additionally, the account team should see security pull-through with LanCope Stealthwatch, ASAv and FirePOWER as AbbVie continues to look into their holistic objective. TrustSec has been initially positioned for quick value – reusing existing hardware with minimal upfront investment in ISE and N1KV. As the solution matures, it will yield upsell at the Access Layer as well as further pull-through of additional security products.

Business Results

Initially, AbbVie sought to implement tighter security controls throughout its Data Center while, at the same, reducing the associated complexity. Further, as the solution matures, it would be extended far beyond the Data Center – providing effective Role Based segmentation at the Access Layer and beyond. Some notable results include:

- Decreased security policy complexity – especially as the footprint for the solution starts to mature within the network
- Holistic solution that stretches from the DC to the Access Layer
- Improved responsiveness to compliance bodies, such as PCI
- Decreased IT Operations burden
- Increased responsiveness with regards to existing, new and emerging threats through TrustSec, ASAv, and FirePOWER

Product Summary

Routing and Switching
- Cisco Nexus 1KV
- Cisco Nexus 2K
- Cisco Nexus 5K
- Cisco Nexus 6K

Security and VPN
- Cisco TrustSec
- Cisco Identity Services Engine
- Cisco ASAX and ASAv
- Cisco FirePOWER

Next Steps

Currently, AbbVie is in their selection process in which Cisco will be evaluated among three other vendors (Checkpoint, VMware NSX and Palo Alto). AbbVie was less than impressed with our competitors, noting that they were either "piecemealed" or "not well integrated" (in regards to Active Directory).

To learn more about Cisco TrustSec, go to cisco.com/go/trustsec