ABK Egypt Bank Increases Cybersecurity Effectiveness

ABK Egypt offers a full range of products and services and is committed to better serving the financial needs of customers whilst providing a distinct and secure banking experience with 39 branches, 85 ATMs and over 1,000 employees.

The customer overview

Customer name
Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) Egypt

Industry
Finance

Location
ABK-Egypt head office is located in Smart Village

Number of employees
1,000

Cybersecurity challenges

- Reducing cost and complexity
- Securing the digital transformation and the omnichannel customer experience
- Fostering faster innovation with effective cybersecurity

Cybersecurity solution

- Secure data centre
- Next Generation Firewall
- Email security appliances
- Talos threat intelligence

Business outcomes

- Mitigating risk and increased visibility
- Responding quickly and accurately to incidents
- Reducing the number of security events, false alerts and time to detection
- Superior customer experience

The threat landscape and the challenges facing banks in Egypt

This is a time of great disruption in the financial services industry in Egypt. Banks operate in a climate of economic change and are at the forefront of transforming their businesses into fully digitized organizations. This shift is primarily driven by customer expectations for mobile services, personalization and greater convenience. Financial service professionals must be able to work whenever they are with a customer, in the branch, or in the field across multiple channels. These changes have increased the level of risk for data, systems and networks. Financial service companies are prime targets for hackers. Cybercriminals are taking advantage of today's mixture of old and new technologies, creating entry points that can be exploited in attacks ranging from malware and phishing to ransomware.

The specific cybersecurity challenges facing ABK Egypt

ABK Egypt is transforming the digital, omnichannel customer experience. Their aim is to deliver a consistent standard of data protection across all channels and services, across all locations enabling customers to transact anywhere, anytime, on any device. Their aim is to enable employees to deliver a superior experience across all channels and to gain full visibility of the local and branch network, reducing complexity, cost and fragmentation of security solutions and enhancing the speed and agility of the network.

The Cybersecurity Solution

Secure Data Centre - The data center is the first point of contact with the organization's customers, so the data center must provide the most reliable and secure services.

Next Generation Firewall (NGFW) - Blocks more threats quickly and mitigates those that breach defenses. Cisco NGFW appliance combines the firewall with the industry's most effective next generation IPS and advanced malware protection.

Email Security Appliance - As the number of internal and external emails are increasing and threats need to be mitigated.

Talos Threat intelligence - All these solutions are supported by a powerful security intelligence unit and a team that tracks, monitors and blocks known and zero-day exploits.

"Cisco Security architecture is helping us to build an evolving threat defense solution to grow and innovate safely in the digital age"

Hisham Sherif
CIO, ABK Bank Egypt

Business outcomes

Using integrated solutions across the network that include those for intrusion prevention, network analysis tools, firewalls, the email security appliance, it is possible for ABK to cater to the various security needs and also offer a better banking experience for their customers through:

· Securing the datacenter: The Cisco secure datacenter solution has helped to address data center security priorities, whilst maintaining high performance and the agility to meet ever increasing demands of the bank's needs and customer's needs for applications

· Reduction in the number of security events and alerts.

· Shifted IT focus to more strategic, added value tasks: IT are able to respond more quickly and accurately to real incidents.

· Talos threat intelligence provides up-to-date security intelligence to contain and remediate threats.

· Maximizing the potential of employees to deliver a superior customer experience across the omnicchannel banking experience

"The Cisco FireSIGHT® Management Center allows us to see what's happening and make changes quickly. For example, we can push out a policy change in under an hour and the system will do a lot for us automatically

blocking malicious links without us having to do anything, preventing infected guest machines from connecting, and restricting user access according to policies"

Ahmed Youssef
Head of IT Infrastructure and Operations, ABK Bank Egypt

Looking ahead – stopping and containing threats with Identity Services Engine (ISE):

Looking ahead – stopping and containing threats with ISE

The next step is to implement ISE and Firepower Management Center together for rapid threat control, enabling IT teams to do more with less.

This will provide awareness of everything hitting the network. Provide access consistently and efficiently. Relieve the stress of complex access management, reduce risks and contain threats by dynamically controlling network access.

Learn more

Cisco delivers truly effective security with a best of breed portfolio, world-class threat intelligence, leading services organization and architectural approach with products that fit together for more effective and simpler security that yield a force-multiplier of effectiveness

http://www.cisco.com/go/africasecurity

Cisco NGFW Firepower 4100

The 4100 series defends the network edge to the core, the data center. The 4100 Series NGFW delivers superior threat defense, at faster speeds, with a smaller footprint. It also enables an evolutionary path for legacy infrastructure.

"Cisco Next Generation Firewall provides us high performance and advanced protection against dynamic security threats, preventing and stopping threats faster, whether inside the perimeter or outside at branch locations and via mobiles. The solution is updated in real-time with advanced thereat intelligence"

Amr Tamen
Head of IT Security Operations, ABK Bank Egypt