Bitdefender®

bela-pharm opts for GravityZone to maximize IT security

Compliance, security ensured at vet medicine maker

THE CHALLENGE

Developing and preparing veterinary pharmaceuticals requires a powerful, reliable IT infrastructure, including innovative systems for secure IT-based business processes. The company's existing security solution only scanned endpoints and file servers for malware, and it sometimes degraded system performance, forcing the company to disable scanning during business hours. The security system had no Exchange module either, so e-mail traffic was not secure, and it could not reliably protect mobile devices. So, the company's IT managers decided to seek a security solution that offers maximum security, doesn't affect system performance and is easy to use.

THE SOLUTION

The IT managers soon identified Bitdefender GravityZone as the perfect security system. "GravityZone has an excellent reputation among security solutions for the reliability of its security mechanisms," says Walter Schmalstieg, CTO at bela-pharm. "We decided a proof-of-concept plan would be best suited to test the technology."

In cooperation with IT service provider Uzuner Systems GmbH from Bremen, the IT team implemented a GravityZone Control Appliance for tests in the fall of 2014. In this phase, the software detected threats not caught by the previous solution. "The fact that GravityZone successfully tracked down these malware programs that had gone unnoticed for so long proved the high quality of the solution," Schmalstieg says. "Thanks to the positive test results, good detection rates, fast working speed and ease of use, we opted for the solution from Bitdefender."

They deployed the new security software on the entire corporate network, with its 200 endpoints, including mobile devices. "All we had to do to directly convert the installed trial version into a production environment and smoothly roll out the solution to the entire IT landscape of our company was to replace some keys. This saved us a lot of time," the CTO recalls.

Besides the main plant at Vechta, a warehouse for finished goods and another for raw materials were connected to the security architecture. As well, several bela-pharm sales representatives work in a home office or regularly visit veterinarians to present products. Their notebooks, tablets and smartphones are also reliably protected by GravityZone.

bela-pharm

As a family-run company with over 40 years' market experience, bela-pharm GmbH & Co. KG is one of the world's most important providers of veterinary pharmaceuticals. The company focuses on the research, development, certification, production and sales of veterinary medicine. Its headquarters are in the northern German city of Vechta, the livestock center of Europe.

Industry
Pharmaceuticals

Headquarters
Vechta, Oldenburger Münsterland, Germany

Users
160 (IT staff, 2)

Results
- Secured physical endpoints, virtual servers, virtual desktops and mobile devices
- Protected fully from ransomware, viruses, Trojans, bots and other threats
- Complied with strict security certifications and compliance guidelines

Bitdefender

THE RESULTS

Since GravityZone was implemented, bela-pharm is fully protected from ransomware, viruses, Trojans, bots and all other threats. This is especially important for a manufacturer of veterinary pharmaceutical products subject to strict certifications and compliance guidelines supervised by institutions such as the FDA. "With GravityZone from Bitdefender, we are on the safe side regarding protection from cyber threats," Schmalstieg says. "The solution is ideal for companies with particularly strict IT security requirements."

The company is also finding GravityZone easier to use and manage. The GravityZone On-Premises management console provides central control of the processes from a web-based user interface. "The single user interface is reduced to the essentials; it is highly transparent and clearly indicates the current security status at any time. The user can see at a glance which systems are endangered and how these threats are blocked," Schmalstieg adds. And, with GravityZone, the company only needs one solution to protect its entire IT landscape of physical endpoints, virtual servers, virtual desktops and mobile devices. GravityZone is also seamlessly compatible with VMware, Microsoft, Oracle, Citrix and any other virtual environment.

"By successfully intercepting attacks, GravityZone helped us increase our productivity. The slim architecture, user-friendliness and transparent reporting save us a great deal of administration time," Schmalstieg concludes.

"Thanks to the positive test results, the evidentially good detection rates, the fast working speed, and the ease of use, we clearly opted for the solution from Bitdefender."

— Walter Schmalstieg, Chief Technology Officer, bela-pharm.

Bitdefender Footprint
- GravityZone Enterprise Security
- GravityZone On-Premises Management Console

IT Environment
- Citrix XenDesktop
- Microsoft Windows
- Oracle
- VMware vSphere