

BLDD Architects modernizes cybersecurity for hybrid work

Award-winning architectural firm gains in-depth security intelligence across diverse IT environment, enhances endpoint protection, and increases operational efficiency



BLDD Architects, Inc., founded in 1929, specializes in architectural and structural design, master planning, QLEO cost-benefit analysis, interior design, branded environments, and referendum planning. BLDD operates nine offices in Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, and Texas. With more than 65 awards and distinctions, BLDD has thrived by providing clients with future-focused, innovative, and sustainable designs.

THE CHALLENGE

When BLDD Architects first deployed Bitdefender, the goal was to consolidate security across the firm's physical and virtual environments and increase endpoint protection. This mission was accomplished but since then, the firm's security requirements have changed.

Dan Reynolds, Director of IT, BLDD Architects, recalls, "From the start, Bitdefender has been an excellent partner with keeping us safe, but we have become more concerned about our risk as the number and types of cyberattacks have accelerated and evolved. With the expansion of remote work and a more hybrid environment that connects our virtual desktops, laptops, and private network, it's made things more complex from a security perspective."

"We upgraded to GravityZone Business Security Enterprise since it would let us better manage a diverse infrastructure while strengthening our cyber defenses with EDR," continues Reynolds. "I'm big on relationships so I appreciated that Bitdefender has been responsive whenever we reached out to them. Bitdefender always makes me feel like a valued customer. As a member of the Bitdefender community, I've also enjoyed testing the latest technologies and seeing how Bitdefender is at the forefront of cybersecurity."

THE SOLUTION

BLDD Architects uses GravityZone Business Security Enterprise to provide integrated endpoint detection and response (EDR) for 130 endpoints, such as Microsoft Windows and macOS workstations and servers, VMware Horizon desktops, and VMware vSphere servers.

Applications running at BLDD that are protected by GravityZone include Adobe Creative Cloud Suite, Autodesk Revit, Microsoft Office 365, and others.

THE RESULTS

With the GravityZone cloud console and EDR capabilities, Reynolds has been able to view his environment in more detail, capture advanced intelligence, and analyze endpoint activity more effectively.

Industry

Architecture

Headquarters

Decatur, Illinois, USA

Employees

65 employees

Results

- Deeper view and insights across hybrid environment
- Automated risk scoring ensures high protection levels
- Single console management saves time
- Blocking of any security-related intrusions

Reynolds explains, "Things have changed dramatically from when security software focused on matching a specific threat's signature. Now there is more to worry about from how programs interact to open ports to how services run. With GravityZone's EDR capabilities, I'm able to watch all the moving parts of our diverse infrastructure. If I see Bitdefender blocking something, I can drill down and analyze how to prevent such attempts in the future. We've been fortunate that Bitdefender has kept out any intrusions."

"The executive summary in the GravityZone dashboard gives me so much valuable information," adds Reynolds. "I also really like the GravityZone company risk score. A couple of times, I saw our risk score increase and GravityZone recommendations appeared. I implemented some of them and it was cool to see our risk score go back down within a few days."

In addition, GravityZone has increased endpoint protection for staff working at home, according to Reynolds. "Now that employees spend more time working at home away from the company network, I feel better that they are running GravityZone on their devices," says Reynolds. "I like how the GravityZone firewall monitors usage, blocks any suspicious activity, and alerts users."

Reynolds also credits GravityZone with increased operational efficiency: "Because I use a single GravityZone cloud console to manage different environments across our company, I'm saving time. There also is a lot of automation within GravityZone that makes me more efficient."

Because the firm relies extensively on graphics-heavy, complex design applications, compute resource loads can be intense. Reynold appreciates that even while GravityZone is running, there is no performance hit to physical or virtual endpoints. As a result, employees can perform their work without any resource-driven slowdowns.

As a member of the Bitdefender community, Reynolds participates in testing of upcoming Bitdefender products and capabilities.

"Because I'm involved in trying out new Bitdefender technologies, I get to provide direct feedback to the company," Reynolds notes. "For example, Bitdefender's user interface developer has presented dashboard screens for review and input by customers. I've been impressed with Bitdefender's roadmap and it's clear they listen to their customers."

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Dan Reynolds, Director of IT,
BLDD Architects

Bitdefender Footprint

- GravityZone Business Security Enterprise

IT Environment

- Adobe Creative Cloud Suite
- Autodesk Revit
- Microsoft Office 365
- VMware Horizon
- VMware vSphere

Operating Systems

- macOS
- Microsoft Windows