

# Cybersecurity posture ranks high at university

Large university reports operational savings, 80-90 percent performance improvement, and comprehensive protection from zero-day threats



With more than 20,000 undergraduate and graduate students, the university offers programs in accounting, finance, healthcare, behavioral science, business management, communication, and criminal justice in online and in-person formats.

**Industry**  
Education

**Main Campus**  
United States

**Employees**  
1,500

## Results

- 80-90 percent improvement in endpoint performance
- Reduced total cost of ownership related to security
- Protection against zero-day threats and phishing
- Time savings opened door to other projects

## THE CHALLENGE

When security software slows down endpoint performance to the point that it must be disabled, the solution no longer has any value. That's what happened at a large university when its Sophos security software required significant computing resources, preventing virtual servers from functioning properly. Sophos was running on user workstations but reduced performance during scans and hampered user productivity. In addition, the solution burdened IT staff since it was painful to manage and deploy to endpoints and was often unsuccessful with blocking infections.

The university's IT team evaluated security solutions from Bitdefender, Trend Micro, and Cylance, and selected Bitdefender GravityZone Business Security Enterprise.

The university's systems administrator explains, "Bitdefender quickly rose to the top of the pack since it was lightweight without any performance impact on endpoints during scans. It also received consistently high ratings from independent labs and was much easier to use and manage than the other solutions."

## THE SOLUTION

Bitdefender GravityZone Business Security Enterprise provides the university with comprehensive protection across more than 2,200 endpoints, including Microsoft Windows and Apple macOS workstations, as well as Microsoft Windows and VMware vSphere physical and virtual servers. Applications running on endpoints protected by Bitdefender include Microsoft Active Directory, Microsoft Dynamics, Microsoft Exchange, Microsoft SharePoint, Microsoft SQL Server, and Skype for Business, among others.

Managed from a single console, GravityZone shields the university from threats and attack vectors with machine learning, behavioral analysis, advanced anti-exploit, continuous monitoring of running processes, and risk assessment capabilities.

Bitdefender GravityZone started delivering value to the university as soon as the deployment began. "GravityZone has been remarkably easy to deploy and configure," says the systems administrator. "The Bitdefender deployment package runs like a dream. With a few clicks, everything happens automatically. I also found GravityZone amazingly effective at removing the security products it was replacing."

## THE RESULTS

Since implementing Bitdefender four years ago, the university has avoided any security breaches. Previously, security incidents occurred every other month on average, often requiring IT staff to re-image workstations.

The systems administrator observes, "Bitdefender's excellent track record with keeping out malware has a lot to do with preventing users from going to untrusted and phishing websites. It's also remarkably good at responding to zero-day events but without being intrusive to users."

Even when GravityZone is performing full scans, users no longer notice any degradation of workstation performance. In fact, the systems administrator estimates that performance has improved 80-90 percent with GravityZone compared to Sophos.

"We're a lean operation," states the systems administrator. "Bitdefender runs extremely well on our oldest workstations, which has extended the life of our technology investments. Plus, we need one less person on staff to manage security since moving to Bitdefender. Altogether, we significantly reduced our total cost of ownership related to security."

Another advantage is that the systems administrator can manage the entire environment, including workstations, physical servers, and virtual machines, via the GravityZone console. Explains the systems administrator, "GravityZone provides a single pane of glass across our full environment, which has simplified my life. A solution that does a great job protecting all our endpoints without slowing them down and requires so little care and feeding has freed me up to work on other projects."

The systems administrator also points to Bitdefender's customer commitment to him and the university: "The sense of partnership I have with Bitdefender provides us with a lot of value. In my 40 years of IT, I've never had a vendor so interested in my feedback on product improvements and my own customer satisfaction."

Using GravityZone Business Security Enterprise, the university was able to improve their security posture through endpoint risk analytics and EDR. "We also like the idea of managing our endpoints through a cloud console, especially now with so many people working from home."

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Systems Administrator, Large University

### Bitdefender Footprint

- GravityZone Business Security Enterprise

### IT Environment

- Microsoft Active Directory
- Microsoft Dynamics
- Microsoft Exchange
- Microsoft SharePoint
- Microsoft SQL Server
- Skype for Business
- VMware vSphere

### Operating Systems

- Apple (macOS)
- Microsoft Windows

Bitdefender is a cybersecurity leader delivering best-in-class threat prevention, detection, and response solutions worldwide. Guardian over millions of consumer, business, and government environments, Bitdefender is the industry's trusted expert\* for eliminating threats, protecting privacy and data, and enabling cyber resiliency. With deep investments in research and development, Bitdefender Labs discovers 400 new threats each minute and validates 30 billion threat queries daily. The company has pioneered breakthrough innovations in anti-malware, IoT security, behavioral analytics, and artificial intelligence and its technology is licensed by more than 150 of the world's most recognized technology brands. Founded in 2001, Bitdefender has customers in 170 countries with offices around the world. For more information, visit <https://www.bitdefender.com/>

\*Bitdefender has ranked #1 in 54% of all tests by AV-Comparatives 2018-2021 for real-world protection, performance, malware protection & advanced threat protection.

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