Gerawan Farms increases productivity with unified security management

THE CHALLENGE

In operation since 1938, Gerawan Farms is the largest grower and distributor of 'stone' fruits in the U.S. and across the world. Throughout the years, the company has maintained its high quality produce, services and distribution through the assistance of innovation and technology.

The base full time staff is approximately 1000 people. However, in its busiest seasons, Gerawan Farms has up to 4500 employees, which include seasonal workers, contractors and full time staff.

Moreover, Gerawan Farms has a highly distributed workforce allocated in the fields and orchards, the processing and packing plants, and offices. Approximately 250 field workers rely on various mobile devices – iPads, iPods and iPhones – to capture and share information through an intricate system that communicates to the processing plants and the company's main office.

In the recent past, Gerawan Farms was suffering from poor administrative controls for security – utilizing multiple security vendors. Tad Uhl, Manager of Information Technology, Gerawan Farms, says "We have come to rely on mobile devices to ensure our efficiency as a company. With

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GERAWAN FARMING
established 1938
PrimaPagaMas.com

Family owned and operated since 1938, Gerawan Farming is the nation's largest grower of peaches, plums, and nectarines, and among the leaders in table grapes. Gerawan Farming is one grower, packing up to 100,000 boxes a day of quality fruit from our enormous orchards, each piece grown, nurtured, harvested and handled exactly the same.

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our distributed workforce operating and reporting on multiple devices using various security products, it was problematic to manage updates and policies, and even to know which computers or devices ever came into the network."

THE SOLUTION

After attending VMworld and learning more about Bitdefender Cloud Security Endpoints, Mr. Uhl decided to move forward with a Proof-of-Concept (P.O.C) on the physical devices on a small group, and, satisfied with the results, eventually rolled out the solution to all users. "We chose to move ahead with Bitdefender Cloud Security for Endpoints for three reasons: 1) the technology's ability to detect and prevent; 2) the solution is so easy to use that people need very little training; and 3) the footprint on all the machines and devices is minimal. Other products take up so much memory, and Bitdefender doesn't impact production and performance."

"Another huge feature for us is that Bitdefender hosts the console in the cloud, we can push updates and policies down to the computers and devices, and still manage all the antimalware," added Mr. Uhl.

THE RESULT

Bitdefender Cloud Security for Endpoints has changed the IT landscape for Gerawan Farms, according to Mr. Uhl "we have not had a single outbreak since we installed Bitdefender, and we no longer have to deal with expired licenses, configuration and updates on machines and devices." More importantly, Gerawan Farms has improved IT efficiency and productivity. "The greatest return on our investment is the manageability that my staff and I now have. Our admins have gone from dealing with antimalware, on average, about three hours a week to about one hour per month, added Mr. Uhl. "I believe we saw our return on investment with Bitdefender in less than a year."

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For more information visit:
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