

Proofpoint Solutions Improve Security for Swiss GIS Experts

Fewer False Alarms and Greater Ease of Use Relieve the Burden on the IT Department



THE CHALLENGE

- Update an existing, outdated cybersecurity solution
- Improve cybersecurity capabilities and functionality
- Meet necessary cybersecurity and legal requirements

THE SOLUTION

- Proofpoint Email Protection
- Proofpoint Targeted Attack Protection (TAP)
- Closed-Loop Email Analysis and Response (CLEAR)

THE RESULTS

- Improved email security significantly
- Relieved strain on the IT department
- Empowered employees to more easily report potentially dangerous emails

About Gossweiler Ingenieure AG

Gossweiler Ingenieure AG is one of the most important service providers for geoinformation in the canton of Zurich, Switzerland. With a 110-year history, the company has a presence in seven locations, and employs 160 people. Today, Gossweiler is responsible for all geographic information, which includes cadastres, installed lines for water, electricity and gas. It also includes internet connections and much more for many cities, municipalities and other public institutions. Its role is vital, because data must be secure and available at the same time. This allows for reliable, clear and non-manipulable data to be accessed for these urban development measures.

The Challenge

Gossweiler's success in working with public and private clients around the services required to design, build and manage public infrastructure is closely linked to the quality of the data required to do so. Accordingly, the security and validity of the information that Gossweiler collects, creates and manages is of the utmost importance. A suitable example of this is the knowledge of the exact course of a gas pipeline. If a gas pipeline were to be damaged during the construction of a new road because the data provided by Gossweiler was incorrect, human lives could be put at risk. What's more, its competitors have already been victims of cyber attacks. Gossweiler wanted to avoid this at all costs.

The solution used by the company in the past reached its limits here. "Our existing solution could not be functionally expanded to the extent that was necessary for us. Furthermore, the detection rate for potentially dangerous emails wasn't acceptable," explains Bernhard Völkin, IT Team Leader for Gossweiler. In addition, the number of false alarms due to alleged attack emails had also risen to a high level. And yet another factor caused dissatisfaction at Gossweiler. "Our previous solution was not particularly selective. It treated all potentially dangerous mails and attachments in the same way—for example, simply sorting out mails with macros." The company regularly receives files in PDF format that contain print commands. "Manual reworking took up more and more of the IT security experts' time," reports Völkin. An alternative had to be found.

The Solution

Gossweiler commissioned its IT partner, BNC Business Networks Communications AG, to find a new, powerful alternative to improve IT security. BNC had not been responsible for this part of Gossweiler's IT infrastructure until then. "Our previous IT security partner simply couldn't deliver what we needed," says the IT manager. "And we already had good experience with BNC in other areas."

"Our Proofpoint solutions significantly increase IT security for us. We've never received such comprehensive and competent support from an IT vendor when implementing new software and services."

Bernhard Völkin, IT Team Leader, Gossweiler Ingenieure AG

BNC IT experts quickly came up with a suitable proposal: Proofpoint Email Protection, Targeted Attack Protection (TAP) and Closed-Loop Email Analysis and Response (CLEAR). After a comprehensive demonstration of the solutions, Völkin was quickly convinced. "It didn't take much persuasion from BNC," says Völkin. "What we were shown in the demo was exactly what we were looking for."

It was important to the decision-makers at Gossweiler that the new solution should be able to handle email far more selectively than was previously possible. They also wanted to ensure that the IT department's day-to-day operations could be kept at a low level. Instead of only releasing supposedly malicious emails for users, they should be able to concentrate on reducing the amount of time and effort spent on the security of their email.

This improvement of IT security in all areas is part of the fundamental strategy at Gossweiler. It also helped their team address increasingly strict legal requirements.

The Results

Today, these Proofpoint solutions enable Gossweiler's business and IT staff to spend less time taking things for granted, such as sharing emails from known senders with attachments and active content. Also, the number of false alarms has been drastically reduced. And the new IT security infrastructure enables employees to actively report potentially dangerous emails to IT experts for analysis.

"In addition to improved security, Gossweiler now saves a cumulative 1.5 work weeks of an IT expert per year through the new solution," emphasizes the IT manager. The next step will be to raise employee awareness through interactive Proofpoint Security Awareness Training, according to the company's plan.

"We are extremely satisfied with the solution and the cooperation we've had with Proofpoint. Our IT department is relieved and our security has been improved. And the commitment of Proofpoint during the implementation has shown us that our decision was—and is—100% the right one," concluded Völkin.

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ABOUT PROOFPOINT

Proofpoint, Inc. (NASDAQ: PFPT) is a leading cybersecurity and compliance company that protects organizations' greatest assets and biggest risks: their people. With an integrated suite of cloud-based solutions, Proofpoint helps companies around the world stop targeted threats, safeguard their data, and make their users more resilient against cyber attacks. Leading organizations of all sizes, including more than half of the Fortune 1000, rely on Proofpoint for people-centric security and compliance solutions that mitigate their most critical risks across email, the cloud, social media, and the web. More information is available at www.proofpoint.com.

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