

PROOFPOINT HELPS LARGEST NORDIC BUILDING ASSOCIATION OBOS CONSTRUCT SUPERIOR EMAIL SECURITY



THE CHALLENGE

- Increase in email fraud attacks targeting executives
- Inability to block ransomware and credential phishing attacks
- Lack of in-depth intelligence and reporting capabilities

THE SOLUTION

- Proofpoint Enterprise Protection
- Proofpoint Targeted Attack Protection
- Proofpoint Threat Response Auto-Pull

THE RESULTS

- Blocked fraudulent email attacks
- Stopped credential phishing and ransomware attacks
- Significantly increased visibility into attacks and threat campaigns
- Enabled security team to provide detailed reporting to the executive team

THE COMPANY

From its beginnings in 1929, OBOS has become the largest Nordic cooperative building association. The company's objectives throughout all these years have been to make housing available to its members. Today, OBOS is owned by its more than 415,000 members. As OBOS continues to grow as an organisation, so too does its need for advanced email security and collaboration solutions.

THE CHALLENGE

OBOS has grown quickly over the last several years. Adding more employees meant that the IT and security team needed to expand email security protection. Before Proofpoint, the building association was using an on-premises email security solution. The tool was missing too many fraudulent emails, credential phishing campaigns, ransomware and targeted attacks on C-level executives.

"We were seeing a lot of fraudulent email coming through our prior solution, also credential phishing and ransomware," said Frode Hanssen, IT manager at OBOS. "We also needed better visibility into our email environment. When the leadership team read about a new threat that hit our region, we needed to be able to respond with how we had dealt with it and prevented it from affecting OBOS."

In addition to concerns about threats entering the organisation, OBOS was moving to Microsoft Office 365. The previous on-premises solution wouldn't work on the cloud-based platform. It was time to move.

THE SOLUTION

Onwards and upwards

As OBOS started planning its move to the cloud and Office 365, the IT and security team knew it needed a cloud-hosted solution. This gave the association the option to use Microsoft Exchange Online Protection (EOP) and Advanced Threat Protection (ATP) or look at other hosted security solutions.

OBOS turned to mnemonic, its managed services provider, for guidance. mnemonic is one of the largest and most trusted IT security partners in Europe. The firm worked with OBOS to present Proofpoint's advanced threat protection capabilities and illustrate how the solution is different. The building association chose Proofpoint to protect against advanced threats and support the move to Office 365.

"We have many customers who are using Office 365, and the primary challenge with Microsoft's security capabilities is that they do not detect phishing emails, so nearly all of our customers who rely solely on Office 365 for security have had to make some sort of compromise," said Ole Kirstian Rosvold, security consultant, mnemonic.

INTELLIGENT PROTECTION

OBOS ran a proof of concept (POC) with Proofpoint Enterprise Protection and Targeted Attack Protection (TAP) solutions. This allowed OBOS to get a firsthand look at what Proofpoint could provide.

"Our previous solution was not detecting the same volume of

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Frode Hanssen, IT manager, OBOS

attacks that Proofpoint was, it also could not provide contextual data,” said Terje Grepperud, senior IT consultant at OBOS.

The 14-day POC revealed more than 130 instances of targeted attacks in 1,281 messages that contained either malicious URLs or attachments that had bypassed the association’s prior on-premises defence. TAP transparently rewrites all embedded URLs to protect users. It also tracks and blocks clicks to malicious web pages.

Beyond the protection Proofpoint provides, OBOS now has access to intelligence and forensics at the organisation, threat and user level—crucial insight that had been missing. Real-time reports provide OBOS with forensic information on threats and campaigns. The association can also see attacks directed at executive leaders or other highly targeted employees.

“With Proofpoint, not only do we see the threats, who is targeted, and who has clicked, we also get contextual data on the correlated threat campaigns,” said Frode Hanssen, IT manager for OBOS. “We really like the ability to easily research a threat campaign and report to our leadership team on how well we’ve protected OBOS against it.”

THE RESULTS

“We are a small IT operations department; however, we consider Proofpoint and the support of mnemonic an extension of our security team,” said Hanssen.

The building association has also recently implemented Proofpoint Threat Response Auto-Pull (TRAP). This will give the team the ability to automatically retrieve messages from a user’s inbox that are discovered to be malicious after delivery.

LEARN MORE

For more information, visit proofpoint.com/uk.

ABOUT PROOFPOINT

Proofpoint, Inc. (NASDAQ:PFPT) is a leading cybersecurity company that protects organisations’ 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 organisations of all sizes, including more than half of the Fortune 1000, rely on Proofpoint to mitigate their most critical security and compliance risks across email, the cloud, social media, and the web. More information is available at www.proofpoint.com.

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