PSD

PSD selects Evolve for Palo Alto Next-Generation Firewall as a Managed Service to strengthen security policy while improving accessibility

Granular access to LinkedIn, Dropbox, Twitter and Facebook features helps leading recruitment organisation promote workplace innovation while retaining control

"Evolve provided us with a complete solution not just a hardware sale. They initially delivered a fully managed service to get us up and running and then helped us with training so we could manage the system ourselves. The end result is a Palo Alto platform that gives us more security and visibility over environment than our legacy Firewall."

Peter Thompson
IT Director for PSD Group

Evolve Secure Solutions, a specialist provider of storage, security and infrastructure has helped recruitment specialist PSD Group deploy a Palo Alto Networks platform backed by Managed Services to improve the definition, enforcement and administration of security policies.

PSD Group is a leading Executive and Management recruitment organisation. Over 250 experienced consultants operate from 8 offices across Europe and Asia serving high profile clients and individuals across multiple sectors. The Group holds ISO 9001:2008 accreditation and is a recognised 'Investors in People' organisation earning it a recent prestigious Silver Status. Technology is a key enabler for the business and extends past traditional office applications into new social media and Webservices. However, PSD needs to strike a balance between accessibility and security, especially as it maintains sensitive commercial and personal employment details.

The company has used a mix of Check Point Firewalls for a number of years backed up by traditional antivirus software.

As an organisation with staff working across different time zones spanning from Shanghai to London; the 9 strong centralised IT department based in the UK needs to protect the network against security threats yet still provide access to applications and external web based resources 24 hours a day.

However, it was becoming increasingly challenging to provide the granular level of access and control demanded of new web based services such as Facebook, Twitter, Linked, Dropbox and others needed by consultants for their daily activities.

"We needed more visibility and control over what our users could access from the internet and how they could interact with these resources but our existing Firewall just was not up to the task," explains **Peter Thompson, IT Director for PSD Group,** "We had researched alternatives and felt that Palo Alto would be a good fit for our organisation and approached a solution provider"

The initial implementation of Palo Alto was deemed a success from a technical level but

as Thompson explains, "We were not happy with our original supplier. They were simply interested in selling us the hardware and had limited expertise in the technology or the ability to provide us with extended managed services or training. It was at that point we turned to Evolve who had been recommended to us as an expert in this area."

Palo Alto Networks technology enables visibility and policy control of thousands of applications running on enterprise networks by accurately, identifying applications regardless of port, protocol, evasive tactic or even SSL encryption.

The Palo Alto system was deployed as a fault tolerant installation at both the main PSD datacentre and disaster recovery facility. PSD also selected Evolve to run the technology as a Managed Service, "This proved extremely useful to help us get up to speed," explains **Thompson** "Evolve also helped our team to learn about the potential risks and the features within the system and worked with us to define and implement best practice security and access polices."

The system provides PSD with a balance between providing more access for its users while helping the IT department maintain an enforceable security policy. Where previously PSD would have to block access to certain sites; now users can perform common tasks like viewing or downloading data but activities like unsecure uploads to Dropbox or edits to Facebook profiles are blocked. "Both the Palo Alto technology and our

relationship with Evolve has exceeded our expectations," Thompson adds, "We have true visibility over activity on our networks and users and we are now able to react quickly to new access or application request in a timely and secure fashion with the knowledge that we have a partner that is there to help if needed."

"As organisations strive to embrace new online services and communication methods, sometimes security concerns will hamper adoption of innovative new technology, "comments **Rick Gray, Sales Director at Evolve Secure Solutions**, "PSD is a great example of how organisations can both empower users and yet protect against serious security and compliance issues."

Gray believes that Managed Services can offer both a short and longer term solution for organisations that have limited in house capability to setup up and maintain next generation Firewall platforms. "Managed services, especially in emerging areas like security policy creation and enforcement, can offer a cost effective starting point and as the first Palo Alto Managed Service provider in the UK, it's an area that is growing quickly."

About Evolve Secure Solutions

Evolve Secure Solutions Ltd is a specialist provider of storage, security and infrastructure services and solutions to enterprises. Founded by individuals with over a decades experience within the IT industry, Evolve deliver a proven and innovative portfolio of products and services to leading UK corporate customers within financial and professionals services, retail and manufacturing.

With a core of top level vendor

accreditation and strong delivery processes based on Prince 2 and ITIL best practice, Evolve has established long standing relationships with its clients to help deliver high value IT solutions. To help its clients meet the challenges of modern business process and to improve flexibility, Evolve has an extensive solutions portfolio that can be delivered via the use of on-site IT, hosted applications and remotely managed services.

For more information, please visit www.evolvesecuresolutions.com