

# How Friedrich-Ebert-Krankenhaus Neumünster Protects Employee and Patient Data With Zero Trust Security

## INDUSTRY

Healthcare

## HEADQUARTERS

Neumünster, Germany

## COMPANY SIZE

2,500+



## OVERVIEW

The Friedrich-Ebert-Krankenhaus Neumünster (FEK) hospital has been providing care for people in Central Holstein for more than 90 years. With 11 specialized centers and 17 medical departments, FEK is the leading medical provider in Neumünster and the central Holstein region.

## OUR SOLUTION



## CHALLENGE

FEK treats approximately 24,000 inpatients and 55,000 outpatients each year. While the hospital is well known for its commitment to advanced technology like robotics-assisted surgery, its cybersecurity infrastructure was still behind the curve. The hospital had implemented various firewalls in the past, but they hadn't been updated to defend against the most sophisticated emerging threats.



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*Benjamin Harfst, Head of IT, Friedrich-Ebert-Krankenhaus Neumünster*



When Benjamin Harfst, Head of IT at FEK, joined the hospital, he immediately saw that its aging, outdated systems couldn't handle the demands of two data centers, hundreds of servers, 1,600 endpoints and a growing number of IoT devices.

"Hospitals are among the most-attacked organizations," said Harfst. "The management team recognizes the risk to our clinical and business systems and is placing much more emphasis on security." To safeguard the personally identifiable information (PII) and protected health information (PHI) of the hospital's staff and patients, he set out to replace aging legacy systems with cutting-edge security solutions and a Zero Trust approach.

## SOLUTION

Harfst decided to work with a managed services provider to identify a solution that could deliver advanced threat prevention, policy-based access management, transparent logging capabilities and high-performing Layer 7 application control, which supports end-user applications and processes. "I already knew Check Point and was convinced that Check Point Quantum Security Gateways were our best choice," he said. "We also choose SVA System Vertrieb Alexander GmbH as our solutions partner for their cybersecurity expertise and experience with Check Point solutions."

SVA worked closely with Harfst and his team to seamlessly migrate from the hospital's legacy architecture. First, they set up Quantum Security Gateways in parallel with the existing firewalls to secure the network and Active Directory environment. Using Quantum's Application Control, they created a Zero Trust approach that allows Harfst to easily classify applications and create granular, role-based access policies for different user groups. The gateways are deployed in two clusters: one for firewalling internal traffic and one for defending the perimeter. "The implementation process has been super," said Harfst. "SVA provides excellent support for complex activities and updates, which enables us to make strong, continuous progress as we systematically replace old systems."

## OUTCOME

FEK's security team immediately saw dramatic improvements in firewall performance and reliability. With up to 9.5 Gbps of threat prevention throughput, the Quantum Gateways easily keep up with the demands of FEK's hospital information system and clinical applications. "The ease of implementation and high performance are remarkable," said Harfst. "Quantum is a very transparent system and runs with amazing stability." Harfst and his team now have peace of mind knowing the hospital's outdated, unsafe firewalls have been replaced with Check Point's next-generation firewalls.

Harfst plans to continue replacing legacy systems and expanding the hospital's security policies to gain even more granular control over applications and users. He is also initiating a proof of concept with Check Point Harmony Email & Collaboration to provide added security for employee email and communication platforms. "Check Point has taken our security posture to a new level of effectiveness," he said. "In an industry that's highly targeted by cyberattackers, we feel much more confident in our defenses."

## ABOUT SVA SYSTEM VERTRIEB ALEXANDER GmbH

SVA System Vertrieb Alexander GmbH is one of Germany's leading IT service providers and employs more than 3,200 people across 27 locations. SVA combines project know-how and skill with high quality IT products from leading manufacturers to provide optimal solutions to its customers. In addition, SVA offers a range of proprietary software products that redefine the possibilities for solution design.

## ABOUT CHECK POINT

[Check Point Software Technologies Ltd.](#) is the trusted cybersecurity solutions provider for over 100,000 SMBs, corporate enterprises and governments globally. With an industry-leading catch rate for zero-day, ransomware and generation V cyberattacks, Check Point Infinity's unified platform delivers unparalleled threat visibility, intelligence and prevention across enterprise environments — from remote users and cloud deployments to network perimeters and data centers. Together, our solutions work seamlessly to drive productivity, reduce costs and enable real-time security monitoring.

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