

How Unisys Enables Secure Cloud Expansion for California State University



INDUSTRY

Technology

HEADQUARTERS

Blue Bell, Pennsylvania, USA

COMPANY SIZE

10,000+ employees

OVERVIEW

Unisys is a global technology solutions company dedicated to helping people and organizations with their IT and security projects. The firm works across regions, industries and contexts, applying specialized expertise and advanced technologies to strengthen and transform teams and processes. Unisys changes how people experience technology and helps organizations act on new opportunities through digital workplace, cloud, applications, enterprise computing and business process solutions.

OUR SOLUTION



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With Unisys and CloudGuard, we have a dashboard tailored for our teams and achieve over 99% compliance. We also have continuous compliance monitoring, full asset visibility, and ongoing threat prevention.

Josh Callahan, CSU Systemwide CISO

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CHALLENGE

California State University (CSU), a Unisys customer, is the largest university system in the U.S., with 23 campuses, nearly half a million students, and 56,000 staff and faculty. Part of CSU's growing cloud footprint is its PeopleSoft installation, which is the largest of its kind in the U.S. "One of CSU's crown jewels is its 9 million PeopleSoft records containing PII," said Gary Landau, virtual chief information security officer (CISO) at Unisys, who helps customers like CSU accelerate and secure their cloud migrations, unlock new operational efficiencies and maximize return on investment (ROI).

To leverage its PeopleSoft environment as effectively as possible, CSU is continually developing new APIs and microservice solutions, all of which need to be protected. "Higher Ed is a target for attackers, because they know university budget constraints can sometimes lead to security gaps," said Landau. Given the security challenges that come with cloud migration and configuration, leveraging the right cloud-native application protection platform (CNAPP) is essential for Unisys to secure its customers' cloud deployments.

SOLUTION

After evaluating numerous solutions, Unisys selected Check Point CloudGuard CNAPP to provide full cloud visibility and threat prevention for CSU. "We chose CloudGuard because it was easier to use, more comprehensive and allowed us to measure our cloud environments against security frameworks," said Landau. "We want a system that we can grow into, as opposed to having a solution that you end up growing out of."

Most of CSU's cloud assets are hosted by AWS, with others in Azure. "For CSU – and Unisys - one of CloudGuard's essential attributes is that it is cloud-agnostic," said Landau. "Being able to identify assets across all the cloud platforms is essential." Initially, CSU's cloud usage consisted of servers and storage-based systems. They secured these deployments with CloudGuard Security Posture Management, a module that automates governance, detects misconfigurations and enforces security policies across clouds. Since CSU's shift to serverless technology, CloudGuard Workload Protection has been continuously scanning applications for vulnerabilities — from development through runtime.

As CSU continues to add more user accounts to the cloud, CloudGuard Infrastructure Entitlement Management (CIEM) maintains appropriate access controls. "We wanted to make sure users weren't given overly permissive access privileges," said Landau. "Using the CloudGuard Infrastructure Entitlement Management (CIEM) module allowed us to make sure that those user accounts were implemented with least privilege."

For CSU the CloudGuard solution works. According to their system-wide CISO, Josh Callahan, "With Unisys and CloudGuard, we have a dashboard tailored for our teams and achieve over 99% compliance. We also have continuous compliance monitoring, full asset visibility, and ongoing threat prevention."

OUTCOME

Together, Check Point's robust CNAPP solution and Unisys' implementation expertise have given CSU's security executives better control of cloud security risk — and the ability to demonstrate in their quarterly governance meetings that they are securing their cloud environments. "With Check Point, we've been able to ensure CSU's cloud compliance with key security benchmarks, including NIST 800-53 and ISO 27001," said Landau. "We have their security configurations above 99 percent with those benchmarks." CloudGuard's intuitive dashboard provides easy access to actionable data and a full view of CSU's cloud risk, allowing analysts to direct valuable time and resources to addressing security gaps and other high-value strategic needs.

Check Point continues to play a critical role in enabling CSU's secure cloud expansion. "As CSU's journey to the cloud evolves, we've taken advantage of more of CloudGuard's features and modules," said Landau. With comprehensive threat prevention across workloads, networks and applications, Unisys has been able to guide CSU through its cloud migration while effectively managing risk and simplifying workflows. "As an MSSP, we're providing the people and the processes to secure these environments. But without a tool like CloudGuard to give us the visibility, we wouldn't be able to do our job. Working with Check Point has been effortless, and we can tell they're equally invested in securing our customers' environments."

ABOUT CHECK POINT

Check Point Software Technologies Ltd. (www.checkpoint.com) is a leading AI-powered, cloud-delivered cyber security platform provider protecting over 100,000 organizations worldwide. Check Point leverages the power of AI everywhere to enhance cyber security efficiency and accuracy through its Infinity Platform, with industry-leading catch rates enabling proactive threat anticipation and smarter, faster response times. The comprehensive platform includes cloud-delivered technologies consisting of Check Point Harmony to secure the workspace, Check Point CloudGuard to secure the cloud, Check Point Quantum to secure the network, and Check Point Infinity Platform Services for collaborative security operations and services.

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