Israeli Environmental Ministry Attains Uninterrupted SD-WAN Connectivity Without Costly Infrastructure Upgrades

INDUSTRY
Government

HEADQUARTERS
Jerusalem, Israel

COMPANY SIZE
800 employees

OVERVIEW

The Ministry of Environmental Protection in Israel serves as the government authority dedicated to preserving the environment, combating pollution, and addressing climate change. By leveraging advanced detection and response technologies, the Ministry minimizes potential environmental damage and ensures rapid mitigation of threats to public health. It is pivotal in safeguarding national safety through strict regulation of hazardous materials and comprehensive monitoring. Striking a balance between environmental conservation and technological progress, the Ministry supports Israel's infrastructure development while prioritizing public health and safety.

OUR SOLUTION

CloudGuard
Secure the Cloud

Quantum
Secure the Network

Infinity Platform Services
Collaborative Security Operations & Services

We achieved significant improvements in network reliability, user experience, security, and operational efficiency by deploying Check Point Quantum SD-WAN and the Infinity Portal.

Dima Spector, Cloud Solution Architect and acting CTO at the Ministry of Environmental Protection

CHALLENGE

As the Israeli Ministry of Environmental Protection's workforce grew increasingly distributed among remote sites, the organization faced numerous challenges in ensuring high-performance internet and network connectivity for its branch users. As a government ministry, it sought a security-centric SD-WAN solution that could safeguard the confidentiality of sensitive information while providing software-defined networking for nonstop connectivity to the internet and cloud.

"We faced unreliable network connectivity across all of our 13 remote sites," said Dima Spector, Cloud Solution Architect and acting CTO at the Ministry of Environmental Protection. "We also struggled to achieve full redundancy and reliability without making costly investments in our overall networking infrastructure." Spector added that the inconsistent connectivity hampered the Ministry's ability to operate seamlessly nationwide.

Budget constraints did pose a significant challenge. With limited financial resources, investing in additional networking equipment and solutions looked more costly than the Ministry could spend. However, facing growing pressures to provide reliable and low-latency connectivity, particularly for remote branch users relying heavily on video conferencing applications, the security and infrastructure team continued to look for a viable way forward.

"Ensuring uninterrupted operations while supporting our employees at remote sites had become increasingly important for the organization. While our team searched for a way to improve network efficiency, connectivity, and security, we also looked for ways to centralize network monitoring and management, and to improve oversight and control of our network operations," Spector said.

SOLUTION

The Ministry, an existing Check Point customer, had already been securing its remote branches with Quantum Gateways and other infrastructure using CloudGuard Network. Aware that activating SD-WAN was literally a simple software upgrade on their current firewalls, the Ministry turned to Check Point to enhance its internet and network connectivity. This strategic decision was hoped to address the Ministry's growing network challenges while optimizing costs and improving operational efficiency.

> Check Point's SD-WAN also improved performance and reduced latency for our remote site users, especially for critical applications such as video conferencing. Given the size of our distributed workforce, this was a considerable win.
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> *Dima Spector, Cloud Solution Architect and acting CTO at the Ministry of Environmental Protection*

Explains Spector, "With Quantum SD-WAN, Check Point integrated the SD-WAN capabilities into Quantum Gateways, so no additional hardware was required, nor any external network elements. For us, activating SD-WAN was literally a few clicks away."

To support its offices of varying size, the Ministry uses a total mix of 26 Quantum 3800 Security Gateways, two Quantum 9100 Gateways, three CloudGuard Network cloud-based gateways and two industrial-grade Quantum Rugged (1590R) appliances. This mix includes 16 additional Check Point gateways to be deployed across its 13 remote sites for redundancy, taking the Ministry to the next phase of its connectivity and security posture efforts.

Next, the Ministry migrated its security monitoring and management system from an on-premises virtual server to the cloud-based Infinity Portal. This migration provided the Ministry with cloud-based centralized control and enhanced visibility over its distributed network infrastructure. The Infinity Portal delivers real-time visibility into branch link health, security incidents and simplified compliance features, and it aligns with the ministry's goal to streamline network oversight.

OUTCOME

The organization effectively improved its network reliability and resiliency across all 13 remote sites, and the SD-WAN functionality enabled failover between multiple local ISP connections, ensuring uninterrupted operations even when individual internet links became unavailable. "Implementing Quantum SD-WAN improved the performance and user experience for remote site users, reducing latency and allowing us to fully use the bandwidth capacity of each branch's multiple ISP connections. Given the importance of real time collaboration tools, such as video conferencing, this was a considerable win," Spector said.

And, with SD-WAN natively embedded into all of Check Point's gateways, the Ministry is looking forward to benefit from the rich feature set delivered by Check Point's latest security management software (R82). The newest capabilities include zero-phishing in the firewall itself, post-quantum cryptography (PQC), DevOps-related enhancements, accelerated threat prevention and more.

Next, the migration to the Check Point Infinity Portal for cloud-based management successfully simplified the administration and monitoring of the distributed network infrastructure. "The migration from our on-premises security management to our Infinity Portal went seamlessly, and the results have been awesome," said Spector.

Finally, leveraging the existing Check Point gateways for SD-WAN functionality enabled the Ministry to improve security without significant investment in networking gear. Given the Ministry's budget constraints, this was crucial. "We achieved significant improvements in network reliability, user experience, security, and operational efficiency by deploying Check Point Quantum SD-WAN and the Infinity Portal," Spector said.

As the Israeli Ministry of Environmental Protection continues its critical work, this network and security enhancement is set to support its efforts by ensuring more reliable communication and data sharing across its various sites. The Ministry's forward-thinking approach to cyber security demonstrates its commitment to maintaining a robust and efficient digital infrastructure in an increasingly complex threat landscape.

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 Core Services for collaborative security operations and services.

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