CHECK POINT™ | The HARRIS CENTER for Mental Health and IDD

Harris Center Defends Assets, Data and Reputation From End to End

INDUSTRY	HEADQUARTERS	COMPANY SIZE
Healthcare	Houston, Texas, United States	88,000 clients

OVERVIEW

Based in Houston, Texas, the Harris Center for Mental Health and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) provides high-quality, efficient and cost-effective services to individuals with mental disabilities. The Harris Center enables its clients to live as fully functioning, participating and contributing members of the community, regardless of their ability to pay. It's the largest provider of outpatient behavioral health services in Texas and the third-largest provider in the United States with more than 80 locations.

OUR SOLUTION

Quantum — Secure the Network

Harmony — Secure Users & Access

CloudGuard — Secure the Cloud

Horizon — Unified Management & Security Operations

Infinity

> " An unexpected benefit of Check Point has been for our security operations. With the Check Point XDR/XPR solution, we have single-pane-of-glass visibility into everything. The threat detection and event correlation has proven to be highly accurate and allowed us to pick up threats we otherwise would not have seen.
>
> *Wes Farris, Director of Information Security and Enterprise Architecture, Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD* "

CHALLENGE

Almost 3,000 Harris Center employees serve more than 88,000 clients across Harris County, Texas. Most employees work in the field, delivering services at six community service facilities and across a range of residential, intervention, law enforcement and school sites. As a healthcare provider, Harris Center is tasked with protecting patient data in compliance with the US Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) as well as with other federal, state and local regulations.

"Security is of paramount importance to us," said Wes Farris, Director of Information Security and Enterprise Architecture for the Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD. "Not only must we protect our clients' data, we also need to protect the organization's reputation by ensuring the integrity of our policies, procedures and due diligence."

The Harris Center supports a large hybrid IT environment. A physical data center supports applications and workflows for on-premises employees. Additional applications are hosted in a private cloud to support remote and clinical workflows. Harris Center also uses Microsoft Azure for its Microsoft 365 email environment. Both on-premises and remote users rely on a range of different devices, including desktop computers, laptops, tablets and mobile devices. Finally, the organization also supports multiple connections to county, clinical and third-party business partners.

When Farris first joined the Harris Center's IT team, the organization was using Check Point firewalls. Over time as the threat landscape changed and the pandemic drove the need for securely delivering remote workflows, Harris Center needed to expand its security footprint.

"We must secure our workforce regardless of where they are," said Farris. "As we expanded our security framework to endpoint and cloud services, we chose the Check Point Infinity Enterprise License Agreement to achieve comprehensive coverage across all areas of our IT environment."

SOLUTION

Harris Center launched its security expansion from Check Point Infinity, which provides easy access to all Check Point solutions and license models under a single agreement. They began by upgrading to Check Point Quantum Security Gateways, and from there, the Infinity model made it easy to extend comprehensive security protection to endpoints and cloud environments.

"Check Point Infinity architecture makes sense from a technology, security and business standpoint," said Farris. "It's much easier to achieve our goals with one business partner and have a single point of access to all Check Point solutions. Infinity simplified security across endpoints, gateways, email and cloud services—all the way to threat hunting across all of those platforms."

Check Point Harmony Endpoint Protection made it much easier for the Harris Center IT team to protect workstations and laptops. In addition to preventing the most imminent threats, Harmony Endpoint's threat hunting capabilities enable the team to identify and drill down into suspicious incidents and automate remediation. Check Point BitLocker Management also helps the team prevent data loss from endpoints to support and enforce data security policy.

"Harmony Endpoint Protection gives us a complete solution for threat prevention and response on our workstations and laptops," said Farris. "The Check Point BitLocker Management feature is an awesome solution for migrating from an existing encryption solution. We deployed protection to thousands of laptops in just a couple of weeks with threat detection, remediation, and disk encryption."

With Check Point Cloud Native Application Protection Platform (CNAPP), Harris Center gained holistic, cloud-native protection for its applications and assets in Microsoft Azure and the private cloud. CloudGuard CNAPP gives the Harris Center IT team advanced threat prevention with granular visibility across its cloud application infrastructure to significantly reduce risk. The solution considers all security events with context to prioritize remediation and focus the team's security resources on the 1% of alerts that represent the biggest risk.

CloudGuard Secure Posture Management (CSPM) is part of CloudGuard CNAPP and gives the team high-level visibility into its Azure environment. At a glance, the team can see the security and compliance posture of all Azure assets in real time.

"We rely on the platform's metrics and posture assessment," said Farris. "CloudGuard CSPM detects misconfigurations, enforces policies and best practices and enables us to monitor everything—all the way down to disk encryption on a virtual machine. It's a critical piece of our due diligence practices."

Harris Center defends its Microsoft 365 email using Check Point Harmony Email & Collaboration. In particular, the Harris IT team uses the data loss prevention for regulated healthcare data. It enables them to identify and mark files across email, collaboration, and file sharing tools and prevent sensitive data from leaving the environment.

"Email is still the largest threat vector, and we focus on these protections every day, all day," said Farris. "Check Point Harmony Email & Collaboration gives us industry-leading security that catches everything —ransomware, phishing, account takeover and other email attacks."

OUTCOME

The team's latest implementation is Check Point Horizon XDR/XPR, which enables them to correlate events across endpoints, network, mobile, email and cloud environments. Powered by real-time Check Point Research, Check Point ThreatCloud AI and other threat intelligence sources, XDR/XPR helps the team identify even the most sophisticated attacks and prioritize the most critical events to focus on.

"Check Point XDR/XPR is one of the most exciting features," said Farris. "Now we can correlate security data across all platforms and see it in one place. It's been instrumental in streamlining our investigation workflows."

Through the Infinity architecture, Harris Center's security solutions work seamlessly together to deliver detailed visibility and powerful threat prevention. From gateway and cloud to endpoint, email and event correlation—the IT team has exactly what it needs to not only protect data but also achieve its goal of ensuring the integrity of their policies, procedures and due diligence.

"An unexpected benefit of Check Point has been for our security operations," said Farris. "With the Check Point XDR/XPR solution, we have single-pane-of-glass visibility into everything. The threat detection and event correlation has proven to be highly accurate and allowed us to pick up threats we otherwise would not have seen."

"Check Point is the cornerstone of our security stack," he continued. "We're a more efficient team. It requires fewer people to detect more events. Across the board, Check Point has made the Harris Center's security program more successful for our assets and endpoints, regardless of where they are."

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.

LEARN MORE

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