FD Media Group Thwarts Network Attackers with LightCyber

Strong Perimeter Defense is Not Enough – Behavioral Attack Detection is a Must-Have

Highlights

Company: FD Mediagroep

Industry: News/Media

Location: Netherlands

About the Customer

Based in Amsterdam, Netherlands, FD Mediagroep is a multimedia company with a unique combination of print, radio, online material and events aimed at providing business people with news and background information at any time of day. The company's media outlets, Het Financieele Dagblad, BNR Nieuwsradio and Fondsnieuws offer a powerful and independent news platform.
The FD Mediagroep collects, analyses and filters valuable and relevant information, 24/7, for an influential group of professionals, business executives and high net worth individuals.

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>
> - Jerry Cyrus, Security Manager FD Mediagroep

The Need

As a news organization, it is vital for the FD Mediagroep to maintain its trust and reputation with readers and customers. Cybercrime can quickly erode trust, reputation and the value of a strong brand. Today's reality is that motivated attackers can get into any network. Zero day attacks are becoming the norm, ransomware is skyrocketing and there are always vulnerabilities with increasingly sophisticated spear phishing and social engineering. Preventative security is necessary but not sufficient to protect the resources and reputation of an organization. Organizations must be able to detect active attacks from external or internal sources that put its infrastructure and assets at risk.

Why LightCyber Magna

"I was looking for something that would warn me of an attack or something that was going on in our network," said Jerry Cyrus, Security Manager, FD Mediagroep. Cyrus knew that the world of security was rapidly changing, and, despite the most advanced firewalls and security systems, they also needed an ability to find attackers or suspicious behavior early before damage occurs. "We had a goal of getting to a higher level of security," said Cyrus. "We wanted to be proactive rather than reactive. So much of security today is reactive."

Key Challenges

- Protect the reputation and reader trust of media group by protecting assets available through the network.
- Become proactive with security to minimize or eliminate dangerous threats.
- Gain visibility to network activities.
- Ensure compliance with EU and Dutch data laws.

Key Results

- Instantly saw what was going on in the network.
- Have received only a small number of security alerts, and alerts are precise and actionable.
- Detected and stopped ransomware.
- Uncovered Red Team simulated attack conducted in secret; only system to find it.

About LightCyber

LightCyber is a leading provider of Behavioral Attack Detection solutions that provide accurate and efficient security visibility into attacks that have slipped through the cracks of traditional security controls. The LightCyber Magna™ platform is the first security product to integrate user, network and endpoint context to provide security visibility into a range of attack activity. Founded in 2012 and led by world-class cyber security experts, the company's products have been successfully deployed by top-tier customers around the world in industries including the financial, legal, telecom, government, media and technology sectors.

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The Results

Eye-Opening Visibility

Security issues, such as malware infestation, are common to individual computers, but once something malicious tries to get beyond a single machine and access other resources and assets, it becomes an especially serious issue. "Prior to LightCyber Magna we had no real insight to our network traffic and events," said Cyrus. "LightCyber opens your eyes. It lets us rest a bit more, because we know it will detect behaviors that need our attention. At first I was a little skeptical, but it is amazing what we could see."

EU Data Laws

Like other EU companies or companies that do business with EU citizens, FD Mediagroep has been trying to prepare for the time when the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) law and other specific Dutch laws become enforceable, as they carry hefty penalties. First, organizations must be able to quickly notify any victims from a data breach. Ideally, companies have the means to prevent this from occurring in the first place. Secondly, explains, Cyrus, organizations must "be able to prove that you have done everything you can to protect your data." Magna leverages the power of machine learning and Behavioral Attack Detection to protect companies' data and find intrusions early, before data loss occurs.

Stopping Network Spread of Ransomware

Magna detected the activities of a client infected with ransomware and caught it while only a few files were encrypted. More importantly, it prevented the ransomware from sweeping across the network and infecting other workstations, servers or storage devices. Leveraging the Magna Platform accurate detection capabilities, the FD Mediagroep security team was able to stop the malware infestation early prior to it presenting a significant problem.

Only One to See "Red Team" White Hat Hacker at Work

A "Red Team" simulated attack was undertaken by the FD Mediagroep at the request of its top executives to assess and understand the quality of the company's security. The exercise started unbeknownst to the security group professional responsible for managing Magna. Early into the exercise, Magna alerted on activity indicative of an attack. It was the only security system in the company to do so. In a meeting, Cyrus received the alert while the white hat hacker was explaining his actions to the top executives gathered there. Needless to say, the executives and Cyrus were pleased. Says Cyrus, "they felt like we were in control."

Highly Accurate Alerts That Are Few In Number

Rather than the flood of excessive false positive alerts that typical of security systems, FD Mediagroep receives two to three alerts per day from Magna. "Other security products give you a lot of data but not much information," says Cyrus. "They don't tell you, 'This is good,' or 'This is bad,' or 'I need to take action with this,' but that is exactly what I get from Magna. It tells me exactly what's going on and what we need to do about it. You get informed. It gives us a level of control that we've never had before."

> **"Magna keeps us informed and shows exactly what's going on. We have a level of control we've never had before"**
>
> - Jerry Cyrus, Security Manager, FD Mediagroep

LIGHTCYBER
CLOSING THE BREACH DETECTION GAP