GAJSHIELD
Data Security Firewall

A.C. CHOKSI

INDUSTRY: Banking & Finance

HEAD QUARTERED: Mumbai

PRODUCTS: Next Generation Firewall
GS 260d

Integrated security solution with Stateful Inspection Firewall implemented for A.C. Choksi.

BACKGROUND

A.C. Choksi is a leading Financial Services & Brokerage firm with acknowledged industry leadership in execution and clearing services on exchange traded derivatives & cash market products. It's integrated and innovative use of technology provides clients with the ability to trade offline as well as online, cutting across all the geographic barriers. A.C. Choksi has memberships of all the principal exchanges like NSE, BSE, Futures & Option Segment of NSE & BSE, PMS, NCDEX, MCX, OTCEI, Depository Participant with NSDL & CDSL.

CHALLENGE

The A.C. Choksi business was growing at a fast pace and a vital necessity for a growing business like that was the ability to have open communication and collaboration amongst company stakeholders, including customers, employees, suppliers, partners, contractors, and telecommuters and with that, the exposure of the network to internet security became a major parameter of concern for Mr. Ashwin Choksi – Director, A.C Choksi. From a security point of view, A. C. Choksi organization was looking for products that could allow them to fulfill a certain executive goals like implementing a solution that ensured openly robust, yet secure network infrastructure to protect information assets and to ensure business continuity, keeping pace with the changing requirements of e-business (e.g., high network availability, data integrity, and privacy) and the corresponding security threats, meeting logging, reporting, auditing, and compliance requirements, facing these challenges with limited resources at lower cost, selecting a solution that maximizes employee productivity, including that of the IT department (e.g., ease of security solution administration and management)

KEY CHALLENGES:

- Exposure of the network to internet
- Privacy
- Network unavailability
- Security Threats

KEY SOLUTIONS:

- Gateway Antivirus
- Bandwidth management
- Intrusion Prevention System
- URL filtering
- Load balancing
- Policy based routing

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- Mr. Ashwin Choksi – Director

Additionally, multicast forwarding was a key requirement for A.C. Choksi as the BSE and NSE network was connected on the LAN and multicast packets for the ODIN server were sent from there. These multicast packets were important for them because they contained BSE and NSE rates which kept getting refreshed.

SOLUTION

A.C. Choksi used GajShield anti-virus engine for complete anti-virus protection for web surfing with gateway-level scanning and blocking of standard web protocols like HTTP and FTP. Gateway level protection ensures a powerful defense at the network's perimeter, reducing expenses related to network clean-up, network downtime and productivity loss. This approach helped in creating preemptive, attack-specific information against attacks before new pattern files are released, offering advanced protection.

A.C Choksi had taken shared space from a service provider so wanted their POP3 traffic to be scanned for viruses. GajShield scans email attachments for known and unknown viruses, including polymorphic and mutation viruses, offering protection to SMTP and POP3 traffic. This helped in mitigating virus related threats propagating through emails. URL Filtering was implemented enabling the IT staff to set and enforce web access policies across an entire network without creating huge hurdles to deployment or maintenance. Groups were created based on department, seniority, etc. and they were provided with time based browsing access.

Moreover, GajShield firewall implemented multicast forwarding by capturing multicast packets and broadcasting them to the DMZ network and similarly the multicast packets which were generated on the ODIN server were broadcasted to the VSAT network which was their key business requirement.

A.C. Choksi also required a comprehensive reporting to analyze information related to current and past traffic movement as well as threat incidence. GajShield reports allowed them to view Firewall, IPS, Link Utilization reports etc.

The complete security solution for A.C. Choksi was implemented using GajShield's Integrated Security Appliance 260D port appliance at the Head office's Internet Gateway to ward off hackers and to protect their network from viruses, spywares etc.

Additionally, firewall policies were defined to allow access for specific applications from the corporate LAN network to the internet and vice versa. Moreover, Intrusion Prevention System was deployed to deeply inspect the packets for identifying malicious packets and intrusions. GajShield's next generation firewall protects against various kind of DoS, DDOS and Syn flood attacks. DOS and DDOS attacks are capable of disabling a single computer or disrupting an entire network. DoS attacks are explicit hacker attempts with the sole intention of keeping legitimate users of a network from using a particular service and/or to disrupt normal business operations.

A.C. Choksi had branch offices that were connected to the Head office through VSAT, leased line, ISDN dial-up and as these users also connected to the internet, the possibility of intrusion attacks originating from these systems increased greatly. The users were terminated to the DMZ of the firewall and access was given only to the trading servers and on specific ports.

To protect the ODIN server from the LAN users, it was moved to another DMZ and access policies were defined to provide access only to specific application ports.

CONCLUSION

The management at the A.C. Choksi organization were greatly satisfied with the security solution provided to the by GajShield. Mr. Ashwin Choksi – Director, A.C. Choksi expressed his content saying, "What we liked about GajShield was the approach of integrated security with applications like Stateful Inspection Firewall, IPS, Gateway Anti-Virus, URL Filtering, VPN and Bandwidth Management in one security appliance. GajShield has helped us in achieving the above mentioned goals of ours."