Guardicore technology reinforces security at Mater Dei hospital through network visibility and monitoring

Viscosity: The First Big Challenge

You can’t protect what you can’t see

With a heterogeneous network connecting servers, medical equipment and workstations, Mater Dei Hospital sought greater visibility of the environment and the flow of applications. They needed information to be accessed uninterruptedly by the medical team, and were concerned about availability and security of applications.

The hospital environment is extremely critical as it must operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year without interruptions and without failures. The different areas of the hospital request access to applications at all times. Availability must be immediate for patient care. The security and privacy of data is also crucial, because any failure compromises the work of doctors and the treatment of patients.

Ianno Soares, CISO of Mater Dei Hospital, sums it up: “In addition to network transparency, we needed secure processes that worked all the time. Our big challenge was to see everything that goes through the network, while protecting our entire environment.”

Solution: The Guardicore Centra Platform

Microsegmentation prevents lateral movements in the network

Taking into account the aspects of network transparency and security, the hospital opted for the implementation of Guardicore’s Centra platform, which, through microsegmentation, offers total visibility of network traffic, shielding both new and legacy applications through Zero Trust security.

“You can’t protect what you don’t know. The Guardicore platform shows all the network devices, pointing their location and the connection paths between servers and between them and other equipment,” explains Ianno Soares, CIO of Mater Dei Hospital.

Thus, the security team visualizes traffic across the network, showing “who’s talking to whom” - that is, all connections between servers - to securely deliver the resources needed by medical teams. It is this visibility that allows the flow between certain paths to be released only when that communication is predicted and legitimated by the security policies in place.
Operating in an environment that does not allow failures, such as a hospital, the Guardicore system works in layers, staggering the monitoring and the connection path between servers. The system offers a “map” indicating the layers to be monitored through careful planning of stages that, in the hospital environment, are extremely critical: “you cannot stop an examination or robotic surgery”, explains Ianno Soares.

ANTI-RANSOMWARE TECHNOLOGY
It’s easier to isolate machines than people
Instead of trying to fight malware, Guardicore technology focuses on understanding and controlling the environment and applications. It uses micro-segmentation to minimize security gaps and prevent the attack from spreading in lateral movements. If a machine or application is compromised, it can be quickly isolated, preventing it from infecting other equipment.

That’s the way ransomware is avoided, because ransomware happens exactly when the attack spreads from a single point, allowing the theft of access privileges to reach strategic information, which then becomes the object of the ransom demand.

In addition to network transparency, we needed secure processes that went live on time. Our big challenge was to see everything that goes through the network while protecting our entire environment.

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TEAM INTEGRATION
Infrastructure, development, business and security all come together
“Today we can see everything that goes through the network, from the simplest to the most critical equipment,” says Ianno Soares. Among the benefits this provides, he highlights the ability to better plan processing and security strategies for the most critical assets - which implies greater synergy between the security, infrastructure, development, and business teams.

By showing, for example, the processes and TCP/UDP ports that are being used, the Centra platform also reveals those that are free for the use of new developments, which allows security to stop being a limitation and, most of all, to become an ally of the other IT teams.

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