

# The Hospice of the Florida Suncoast

## Patients protected and network kept healthy

### Case Study

#### Situation

Founded in 1977, The Hospice of the Florida Suncoast is the nation's largest not-for-profit agency committed to serving individuals and families as they face chronic illnesses, near the end of life, deal with end-of-life issues or are in grief. Community based, through its family of programs, The Hospice of the Florida Suncoast offers comprehensive hospice and palliative care, caregiver education, individual and group counseling, spiritual support and many other services.

According to The Hospice "Our goal is to help each person in our community find quality of life and live each day with meaning and purpose. Toward that goal, we are constantly adding new programs and services to meet changing needs of our community."



One of the changes The Hospice made was updating its network security infrastructure to offer a wireless network so that all guests, patients and staff at the inpatient facility could easily and securely access the Internet from anywhere within the building. With more than 2,500 patients and their families being served each day along with the staff of 800 professionals along with 3,000 dedicated volunteers, it was imperative that The Hospice offer a secure wireless network as well as a secure network for the LAN based network.

Chris Williams, director of MIS Technology for The Hospice of Florida Suncoast said, "We have about 800 people with laptops that need to be able to securely connect to the network no matter where they are located within the community. Some will connect at a patient's bedside while others will connect when sitting at their desk. To us it doesn't matter, we need to make sure that our network is protected and up at all times."

Working with GreenPages Technology Solutions, a national technology consulting and integration company, The Hospice selected multiple Fortinet new generation security gateway products for its network security and high availability needs.

#### Solution

One of the crucial requirements that The Hospice had for its new network security solution was high availability (HA). HA is important because as a hospice, the staff is available 24 x 7 with about 800 people (including nurses, social workers and chaplains) connecting from patient beds or other facilities.

The Hospice initially deployed Fortinet appliances at the 78 bed patient facility in Pinellas Park, Fla. The Hospice selected Fortinet's multi-threat FortiGate-50B appliances to protect the 802.11 guest wireless network at the patient facility.

After successfully using the FortiGate-50B appliances, The Hospice decided to replace the Cisco appliance at its main location with FortiGate-1000A systems. The FortiGate-1000As are in high HA mode offering firewall, VPN, antivirus, anti-spam, Web content filtering and intrusion prevention functionality for those accessing the network such as pharmacists, doctors, nurses, chaplains and social workers. The FortiGate-1000As are also being used for the virtual domain (VDOM) capability which allows The Hospice to separate firewall rule sets between its two internet connections.

To analyze and report on network usage, The Hospice also deployed a FortiAnalyzer-800B solution which is used to report on various types of traffic passing through the FortiGate HA cluster.

**Deployment:**  
FortiGate-50  
FortiGate-1000A  
FortiAnalyzer-800B  
FortiGuard Network

**Industry:**  
Non-profit



## Success

One of the benefits that the Hospice has seen since the deployment of the Fortinet appliances is that they have been able to replace three different security vendors' products with appliances provided by Fortinet. Instead of having to contact one vendor for firewall issues, another for Web content filtering issues and yet another for antivirus and anti-spam, the non-profit now only has to contact one vendor if issues arise.

"We have been extremely pleased with the Fortinet product line and are happy that if we ever have a problem, there is one vendor to work with rather than other vendors pointing fingers at each other," added Williams.

Another benefit to this is that Fortinet's non-licensing structure makes it cost affordable for the budget conscious non-profit to provide enterprise network security without having to worry about additional licensing fees.

All FortiGate systems are kept up to date automatically by Fortinet's FortiGuard® Network, which helps ensure protection against the most damaging, content-based threats from email and Web traffic such as viruses, worms, intrusions, other unwanted network traffic and more - around the clock and around the world. This helps the network security staff to focus on strategic goals rather than constantly checking for new virus and other malware attacks.

Using FortiAnalyzer, the IT staff at The Hospice can see exactly who is doing what on the network if needed. The FortiAnalyzer solution also enables the staff to provide up-to-date network usage reports – something that wasn't easily done before.

"We love the Fortinet appliances and couldn't be happier with the solution," concluded Williams.

## About Fortinet

Fortinet is the pioneer and leading provider of ASIC-accelerated unified threat management, or UTM, security systems, which are used by enterprises and service providers to increase their security while reducing total operating costs. Fortinet solutions were built from the ground up to integrate multiple levels of security protection—including firewall, antivirus, intrusion prevention, VPN, spyware prevention and anti-spam -- designed to help customers protect against network and content level threats. Leveraging a custom ASIC and unified interface, Fortinet solutions offer advanced security functionality that scales from remote office to chassis-based solutions with integrated management and reporting. Fortinet solutions have won multiple awards around the world and are the only security products that are certified in six programs by ICSA Labs: (Firewall, Antivirus, IPSec, SSL, Network IPS and Anti-Spam). Fortinet is privately held and based in Sunnyvale, California.

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