Innovative French IoT platform bolsters cloud architecture security

New firewall solution protects business-critical data, mitigates risk of cyber attacks.

About Energisme

Enterprise clients across the globe rely on Energisme’s AI-powered platform and cutting-edge modelling tools to forecast and optimise energy use. Hosted on Microsoft Azure, the company’s cloud-based platform collects and processes highly confidential data for its international client base.

As a leading provider of IoT solutions, Energisme boasts a list of global customers that includes industrial corporations, hotel groups and real estate management companies. Protecting this business-critical data is paramount.

Confronting the unthinkable

“It was critical that we strengthened server security to protect our users and customer data. Any breach of this data was unthinkable. We were worried about the increasing threat of RCE attacks. So we needed to upgrade our firewall solution to bolster attack mitigations,” said Cyril Hommel, who serves as Energisme’s VP Business Development. “Client trust in how we protect their data is crucial, so we also needed a solution that better supported our compliance with GDPR regulation and global information security standards.”

Cyril Hommel added: “Managing VNet peering was also a big challenge. At the time, Azure global peering was not yet available to our team. We had to connect all of our global, virtual machines to European servers using VPNs, which were both costly and had data latency issues.”

The business knew that it needed to take action to shore up the security of its complex IoT server architecture. Energisme turned to the expertise of its IT security partner Infinigate to find a flexible high-performance firewall solution that could be accessed via Azure Marketplace. Infinigate suggested

Profile

- French IoT services provider for energy performance sector
- Based in Paris with more than 100 employees
- Multi-sector clients with a global reach
- SaaS platform hosted on Microsoft Azure

Challenges

- Strengthen security of complex IoT server architecture
- Protect client data and enhance regulatory compliance
- Concern about the risk of data loss
- Mitigate the threat of remote code execution (RCE) cyber attacks

Solution

- Barracuda CloudGen Firewall for Azure
- Barracuda CloudGen WAF for Azure
- Barracuda CloudGen Firewall F80

Results

- Advanced data protection thanks to Barracuda CloudGen WAF which ensures security of inbound requests
- Enhanced GDPR and ISO 27001 compliance
- Improved common vulnerabilities and exposures (CVE) libraries prevent attacks on company’s local network
- Continuity of services guaranteed by improved security measures for employees
Barracuda’s offerings.

The search for an immediate partner

Barracuda responded immediately to the request from Energisme. Its team embraced the challenge and identified what was needed to meet the company’s complex requirements. Crucially, these included the creation of various user defined routes (UDR) and subnets so that virtual network connections (VNet peering) could be deployed between regions.

This made the decision to go ahead that much easier. “Our aim was clear: to find a security solution that could be deployed immediately and that could be accessed via Azure Marketplace. In this respect, the Barracuda solution was exactly what we needed,” said Cyril Hommel.

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When it comes to information security, the future is now

Deployment was seamless and implementing the solution has made an immediate impact. Advanced cloud architecture security means that client data, which is critical to Energisme’s operations, is protected and the risk of data loss has been alleviated.

The business also has assurance that this data protection complies with the regulatory requirements of ISO 27001 and GDPR. “This gives our clients the confidence that they will continue to receive a service they can trust. From the outset, all of the work completed by the Energisme team was completely secure and customers also benefit from improved continuity of services,” said Cyril Hommel.

Energisme now uses servers deployed on Azure platforms across multiple continents. The Barracuda solution was installed on the European servers in collaboration with the company CVC-IT.

Barracuda’s firewall solution also features common vulnerabilities and exposures (CVE) libraries which are updated daily and its business is protected against all types of remote code execution (RCE) attacks.

Cyril Hommel concluded: “Our server architecture is as sophisticated as our clients’ network of sites is multinational. Together with our contacts at Barracuda, we have made great strides to simplify and unify our information security.”

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VP Business Development
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