

NTT Data Improves Offerings with New Firewall Technology

Payment Innovations Lab uses Barracuda CloudGen Firewall to deliver and secure new services.

NTT DATA

Getting started

For the past 18 months, NTT Data engineers have been testing a next-generation, cloud-ready firewall for Japan's largest credit card network. First launched by NTT Data in 1984, the CAFIS payment system has grown to become the largest payment network in both volume of transactions and number of credit card companies (120), financial institutions (1,600), and other merchants (43,000) that depend on the system every day to process millions of electronic payments.

Moreover, cashless payments are increasingly being handled by NTT Data's financial platform, and with them comes a new wave of growing pains. "Meeting foreign tourist demand is one of our major challenges," says Yoshihiro Jimbo, senior manager of payments at NTT Data. "To that end, we must facilitate and enable cashless smartphone payments for more than 24 million tourists."

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Profile

- Founded in 1988
- Headquartered in Tokyo, Japan
- 118,000 employees in 53 countries

Challenges

- Payment-processing system needed to meet new compliance goals
- Needed to increase transaction speeds without compromising security
- Wanted better access visibility and risk analysis

Solution

Barracuda CloudGen Firewall

Results

- Better security across a greater number of remote access points
- Enhanced development capabilities thanks to improved security controls

Digital handshake

In order to respond appropriately to these trends, NTT Data created the Payment Innovation Lab to not only allow for new ways of paying for things, but to ultimately secure each and every one of those ways.

“To do this, we are fusing the conventional waterfall development model with agile development to quickly validate the new technologies and services while testing and researching the underlying security solutions needed to make it all happen,” Jimbo says.

One of those new tools is the Barracuda CloudGen Firewall, the first of its kind in the country. “In addition to the millions of payments we secure, we are using CloudGen Firewall to secure the Payment Innovation Lab itself,” Jimbo says. “Thanks to various security measures such as anti-passback, security cameras, and wireless segmentation for developers and guest, we are better able to administer crucial testing, improve lab security, accumulate know-how, and better assess the applicability of CloudGen Firewall to other commercial services.”

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Stated benefits

Before converting to Barracuda, NTT Data used legacy firewalls that were only performing L3/L4 filtering for IP addresses, port numbers, and so on. “CloudGen Firewall can perform application-level filtering, however, which was impossible for us in the past,” Jimbo says. “What’s more, we can now visualize and control L7 communications.”

On top of that, Jimbo and his team at NTT Data use CloudGen Firewall to secure VPN connectivity, remote smartphone connectivity, transparent access to internal web systems, single sign-on, and ongoing support.

“The other benefit of CloudGen Firewall is that we were able to borrow a trial appliance immediately. An engineer from Barracuda gave us an in-depth explanation of the product architecture and operations, which helped us quickly understand its capability.” This helps NTT Data to minimize the trade-offs between convenience and security, such as filtering to block suspicious content or too much filtering, which can result in slower operational speeds.

More benefits to come

Commercial payment services rightly prioritize security over speed, and Barracuda is proud to have one of its marquee products trusted in such a sensitive and widely-used environment. The added benefits, then, are the icing on the cake.

“We are actively using CloudGen Firewall to develop whitelisting and blacklisting capabilities that we were never able to do before,” says Jimbo. “We can realize various types of access points, visualize communication by location, and more quickly and accurately score our risks and vulnerabilities.”

NTT Data’s Payment Innovation Lab intends to use CloudGen Firewall to expand remote working possibilities, and to secure their Amazon Web Services dev environment.

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