In an economy traditionally dominated by cash, one electronic payment systems operator is revolutionizing the ubiquity and accessibility of digital payments across an entire country. The company is striving to build a more financially inclusive economy with innovations that include a domestic debit credit card and a mobile application that enables users to access and transfer money between different payment systems. The chief information security officer (CISO) of the company elaborated, “When our organization launched, our vision was to touch every individual in the country and provide access to world-class digital payment systems.”

Security is a Top Priority
Achieving this vision requires collecting the digital identities of the millions of consumers who use the payment systems operator’s services. As a mission-critical imperative, the CISO’s core charter is to ensure that this information remains secure. The country’s stringent financial regulations place further responsibility on the organization to maintain the integrity of the copious amounts of personally identifiable data it manages. Additionally, many banks in the country turn to this payment systems operator for guidance in securing their own infrastructures, meaning that the organization must lead by example through the creation of a world-class security posture.

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“As an equal player and driving force supporting our country’s financial ecosystem, helping our peers stay abreast of evolving threats and safeguarding our collective environment is deeply important to us,” shared the CISO.

The company also serves as a clearing house and card scheme provider across the country and the world, creating an expansive, complex and target-rich environment to protect. The CISO described, “Security is embedded into the core values of our entire organization, throughout management and all the way up to our board. For us, the impact of experiencing a breach is absolutely intolerable. Management acknowledges, however, that coming under attack is inevitable, so being prepared to swiftly mitigate an incident is a priority.”
“With FireEye, threat discovery and mitigation are now practically real-time activities. What used to take multiple days has been cut down to as little as a few minutes.”

— Chief Information Security Officer, electronic payments operator

Uniform Protection from a Single, Comprehensive Provider
One of the payment systems operator’s highest priorities was improving defenses against threats originating from unstructured data: “Exploiting vulnerabilities in applications that handle unstructured data is an approach used by criminals to enable threats to fly under the radar of perimeter defenses,” explained the CISO. The organization also focused on complementing signature-based defenses with technology to detect and stop signature-less threats across its extensive environment.

Interoperability was a core criterion in the company’s search for a solution to secure numerous threat vectors. The CISO shared, “We looked for a comprehensive provider that could uniformly protect our data and fortify our defenses across the entire threat landscape.”

From the outset, FireEye was top-of-mind for the CISO. In his previous role, he conducted a rigorous evaluation of leading solutions in which FireEye was selected as his former employer’s favored security provider. He noted, “My prior experience with FireEye gave me the confidence to consider adopting the company’s solutions again.”

Built on a FireEye Foundation
FireEye Network Security and FireEye Endpoint Security were previously implemented in the payment system operator’s environment and additional FireEye solutions were subsequently deployed to address potential vulnerabilities across other threat vectors. To further secure the organization’s data repositories, the footprint of FireEye Endpoint Security was expanded to include the company’s servers as well as its end users.

To fortify defenses across all major threat vectors, the CISO added FireEye Email Security and FireEye File Protect to the company’s security stack. Member banks load extensive documentation comprised largely of unstructured data into the payment systems operator’s infrastructure on a daily basis. FireEye File Protect analyzes these files and content repositories to detect and quarantine any malware that bypasses next-generation firewalls and intrusion protection systems or has otherwise entered the network through legitimate means.

FireEye Threat Intelligence was included to ensure external, actionable information was regularly provided to the company and incorporated into its defenses.

Seamless Integration Enables Multi-Vector Protection
The suite of FireEye solutions actively provides insights to the team while feeds from FireEye Threat Intelligence inform each component about how to identify previously unknown, signature-less threats emerging on the frontlines of attacks anywhere in the world. If one solution detects a threat in the payment systems operator’s environment, alerts are disseminated to the other FireEye solutions to contain or stop attacks.

The CISO enthused, “With its interoperable network of solutions, FireEye helped us create a comprehensively integrated platform that addresses all of our threat vectors. With the information from FireEye Threat Intelligence, we have visibility into what’s happening across the global threat landscape and the ability to take action in the event of a situation requiring forensic analysis.”

Discovery and Mitigation: From Days to Minutes
The comprehensive integration between FireEye solutions has significantly reduced the time required to investigate incidents, discover root causes and eliminate any threats for the company’s security operators, analysts and investigators. “With FireEye, threat discovery and mitigation are now practically real-time activities. What used to take multiple days has been cut down to as little as a few minutes. We’re able to use the FireEye technologies to respond to cyber attacks.

FireEye: Delivering on the Vision
Reflecting on one of the most notable aspects of investing in FireEye as a CISO, the officer concluded, “CISOs regularly interact with multiple security technology firms. FireEye distinguishes itself from the crowd by consistently delivering on its mission statement. The FireEye CEO’s vision is effectively and accurately translated all the way down to the solutions and services we receive on the ground.

“FireEye manages to make each conversation unique and valuable to me as a CISO because of how well details about our environment and challenges are shared across the organization. This ensures that whether I’m talking to the sales force or working with technical support, information is tailored to my specific, unique needs. I’ve yet to come across another organization where that depth and transparency of information exists; This is something I can personally vouch for.”

To learn more about FireEye, visit: www.FireEye.com

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About FireEye, Inc.
FireEye is the intelligence-led security company. Working as a seamless, scalable extension of customer security operations, FireEye offers a single platform that blends innovative security technologies, nation-state grade threat intelligence, and world-renowned Mandiant® consulting. With this approach, FireEye eliminates the complexity and burden of cyber security for organizations struggling to prepare for, prevent and respond to cyber attacks.