



For the Denver Broncos, Defense is a Winning Strategy on the Cyber Front and on the Field

INDUSTRY

Sports Teams and Clubs

HEADQUARTERS

Denver, Colorado

COMPANY SIZE

51-200

OVERVIEW

The Denver Broncos are a professional American football franchise based in Denver, Colorado, a member of the National Football League's (NFL) American Football Conference West division. The Walton-Penner Family Ownership Group owns the team and makes its home at Empower Field at Mile High.

OUR SOLUTION



Quantum
On-Premises Security



Harmony
Workspace Security



CloudGuard
Cloud Security

“



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Chris Newman, senior IT director for the Denver Broncos

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CHALLENGE

With tens of thousands of people connecting to the Broncos' Wi-Fi during games, concerts, and other events, there is no shortage of opportunities for threat actors to compromise the organization's network via external devices.

To support business and football operations as well as event and gameday production, Chris Newman, senior IT director for the Denver Broncos and the technology team, must ensure the organization's IT infrastructure is secure and available at its two main sites — one of which, Empower Field at Mile High, is a 76,000-seat stadium.

From customer payment data processed on point-of-sale and e-commerce systems to player medical information and mission-critical intellectual property, a wealth of highly sensitive data traverses the Broncos' network daily. Newman explained that most of the data they deliver is during games and concerts, with anywhere from 10 to 50 terabytes of Wi-Fi data running through their firewalls. Previously, the IT team had to manually distribute fan, employee, and partner traffic — a time- and resource-intensive process that can also be prone to human error, resulting in service interruptions. Unsatisfied with his firewall solutions, The Denver Broncos needed a scalable platform to secure the organization's entire digital footprint.

SOLUTION

Newman and his team implemented a unified platform based on several Check Point solutions. "We wanted to have a single pane of glass to protect our inside network as well as our perimeter and cloud applications," said Newman. The team leverages Check Point Quantum Firewalls, Quantum Maestro Hyperscale Network Security, Harmony Email and Collaboration, and CloudGuard to prevent threats across the organization's entire attack surface. "Check Point gives us a great way to consolidate our security viewpoint, so we're not jumping between different systems if an alert comes up," he said.



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Chris Newman, senior IT director for the Denver Broncos

Maestro acts as a rack layer managing the firewalls underneath, allowing them to be aggregated and deployed as different form factors — i.e., virtual, software, or hardware firewalls. The IT team appreciates Maestro, because it provides ease of use, flexibility, and more time in service. With Harmony Email and Collaboration and CloudGuard, the security team also has full visibility of the connected devices and cloud-based applications that help deliver a seamless fan experience and drive efficiency for the football team. “Honestly, Harmony Email and Collaboration and CloudGuard just work great, so it frees me up to focus on other areas of the stadium gameday production that we have to tackle,” said Newman. “Check Point makes my job easier.”

OUTCOME

The Broncos’ security team now has a simple, effective solution to monitor organizational security posture. As a result, the team can provide secure connectivity to fans and employees accessing applications and other resources — on-premises or remotely. In the past few years, started using Check Point’s email protection and AppSec control software to protect our web-based applications that our scouts connect to, providing a solid solution for us in those areas,” said Newman. “It just works, and I don’t have to patch it, so we’re really impressed with it.”

From helping ensure PCI DSS (Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard) and HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) compliance to enabling new operational efficiencies, Check Point has helped the Broncos fulfill numerous security and business requirements. Working alongside Trainor and his team to continually roll out new technology deployments, Check Point has proven to be a reliable, forward-looking partner for the Broncos. Newman explained how the Denver Broncos participated in a number of Check Point’s early access programs and completed a number of upgrades. And Newman recalled how Check Point sent a team of developer engineers to provide the Denver Broncos support during the more cutting-edge updates.

With Check Point, the Broncos organization can continually develop innovative ways to improve the fan experience and drive operational efficiencies. Newman and other business leaders across the Broncos organization are keeping a close eye on emerging artificial intelligence (AI) powered cybersecurity technologies. Newman shared how the team seeks processes that can soon be automated to make their jobs easier and create even more efficiencies. His team has already incorporated AI into its security workflows by using Check Point solutions like Harmony. “I’ll lean on Check Point to help us in that regard,” he said.

About Check Point Software Technologies Ltd.

Check Point Software Technologies Ltd. (www.checkpoint.com) is a leading protector of digital trust, utilizing AI-powered cyber security solutions to safeguard over 100,000 organizations globally. Through its Infinity Platform and an open garden ecosystem, Check Point's prevention-first approach delivers industry-leading security efficacy while reducing risk. Employing a hybrid mesh network architecture with SASE at its core, the Infinity Platform unifies the management of on-premises, cloud, and workspace environments to offer flexibility, simplicity and scale for enterprises and service providers.

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