

A black and white photograph of a large, ornate university building with many windows and a central entrance, serving as the background for the title text.

University of Córdoba Secures Its Campus Data Center with Hillstone intelligent NGFW

The Customer

The University of Córdoba is one of the top public colleges in Colombia. It offers a broad range of undergraduate programs underpinned by world-class research, including the field of basic sciences, associated agro-industrial production, engineering, social sciences, social, education and health. It has more than 12,000 students, supported by more than 550 academic staff.

The Challenge

Like many educational institutions, the University of Córdoba balances academic freedom and flexible network access with security and resource consumption concerns. It is continually under attack from hackers, DDoS, and malwares. In the past, most malware has effectively tried to bring down the network just to make noise and provide distraction, but there has been a shift from 'disruptive malware' aimed at causing problems to networks to 'criminal malware' aimed at generating profit for criminals.

With traditional firewall protection, the IT team was unable to keep pace with security needs. "We have to protect the campus network of the university against various attacks, including advanced threats. In addition, we have to provide full protection for critical assets such as servers that support, for instance, education management system and databases," says the IT manager. "Another critical requirement was visibility and control of user traffic to ensure security as well as Quality of Service." Due to these issues, the IT team had to find a way to protect its research, personal, and financial data, as well as restrict and control access to data and networks.

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The Solution

The Hillstone Networks T3860 Intelligent next-generation firewall (iNGFW) was deployed at the university's data centers perimeter. The solution delivers NGFW features, including IPS, AV, URL, QoS, as well as intelligent features, including ATD (Advanced Threat Detection) and ABD (Abnormal Behavior Detection).

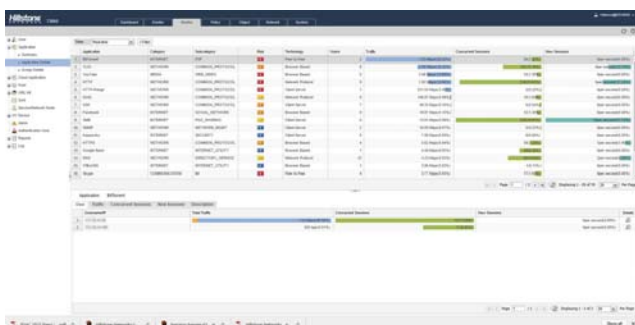


Figure 1: Application-Based Visibility Interface

The university IT team was impressed by the breadth of application-based visibility (Figure 1) offered by the Hillstone solution, as well as the user-based dashboards that provided executive level as well as granular details for administrators. "We could instantly see what was traversing our network, what people are using, and where they're going on the Internet," says the IT manager. The Hillstone iNGFW provides visibility into every stage of an attack and detected security breaches within a matter of minutes or even seconds, so that the administrator could take proper action to prevent network casualty.

The IT team learned that the solution prioritizes hosts with the greatest security risks and provides

contextual information about the threat for maximum visibility. The security administrators were able to drill-down into the attacks, including packet captures, to analyze all threat details and resolve the issue to prevent it from recurring.

In addition to the traditional NGFW features, the Hillstone ATD engine analyzes close to a million "known" malware samples, and provides an accurate method for identifying unknown malware, helping administrators detect advanced threats, which cannot be detected by traditional signature based anti-virus. Figure 2, below, illustrates that 67 critical threats were detected by ATD within 24 hours.

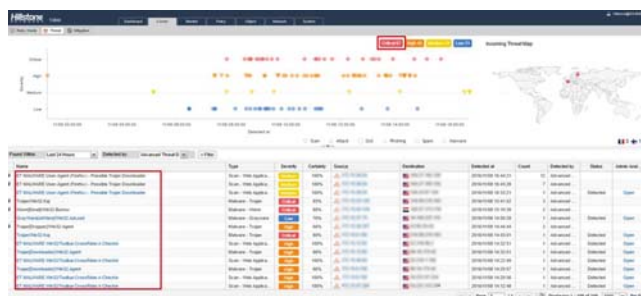


Figure 2. Threats detected by ATD engine

Due to deploying Hillstone Networks T3860 Intelligent next-generation firewall (iNGFW), the University of Córdoba resolved issues related to network visibility, as well as security against advanced threats. "The comprehensive capabilities of the Hillstone solution enables us to secure and more fully support our academic mission," concluded the IT manager.



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