

NGFW Migration for a Large Bank

Secure and seamless Next Generation Firewall (NGFW) Migration for a Large Regional Bank

CLIENT: ABC Bank (fictional name)

INDUSTRY: Banking and Finance

CHALLENGE: The bank as one of the largest financial institutions in the region, serving hundreds of thousands of customers across various industries and offers many different types of banking services. As part of their commitment to maintaining a robust cybersecurity posture, the bank identified the need to upgrade its existing legacy firewall infrastructure.

The challenges faced with the current setup were as follows:

Outdated Firewall Technology: The existing firewall infrastructure lacked advanced security features, such as application-level visibility, threat prevention, and URL filtering, making it less effective in defending against modern cyber threats.

Complex Rule Management: Over the years, the firewall rules had become highly convoluted and difficult to manage, leading to potential misconfigurations and security gaps.

Regulatory Compliance Requirements: Being a financial institution, ABC Bank had to adhere to strict industry regulations and standards, such as PCI DSS, ISO 27001, and data privacy laws. The existing firewall lacked some of the essential features needed to meet these compliance requirements.

Performance and Scalability Concerns: With the rapid growth in the bank's customer base and online services, the legacy firewall struggled to cope with the increasing network traffic, leading to performance bottlenecks.

Solution:

ABC Bank engaged with a trusted managed service provider, Enterprise IT Security (EITS). EITS suggested the newest NGFWs from Palo Alto and designed a comprehensive migration solution to facilitate a seamless transition. As the #1 Palo Alto CPSP in North America, with extensive Palo Alto certifications and a specialization in Palo Alto Networks solutions and firewall migration services, EITS perfectly fit to address their security needs.

The migration service encompassed the following steps:

- **Requirement Gathering and Planning:** EITS conducted detailed discussions with ABC Bank's IT and security teams to understand their specific security requirements, compliance needs, and future scalability expectations. Based on these discussions, they formulated a comprehensive migration plan.
- **Network Assessment:** A thorough assessment of ABC Bank's network infrastructure was performed to identify all the devices, applications, and potential security vulnerabilities. This assessment laid the groundwork for a well-informed migration strategy.
- **Migration Strategy and Design:** EITS proposed a phased migration strategy to minimize downtime

and disruptions. They designed the new Palo Alto NGFW architecture based on ABC Bank's unique requirements, ensuring high availability, redundancy, and scalability.

- **Rule Mapping and Optimization:** EITS collaborated with ABC Bank's IT security team to map the existing firewall rules to Palo Alto NGFW policies. They optimized and rationalized the rule sets to ensure a more efficient configuration.
- **Palo Alto NGFW Deployment:** The new Palo Alto NGFWs were deployed alongside the existing legacy firewall infrastructure. This parallel deployment approach allowed for a gradual and controlled migration of services.
- **Testing and Validation:** EITS conducted rigorous testing to verify the functionality and security of the new NGFWs. The testing included traffic simulation, threat prevention validation, and compatibility checks with existing applications.
- **User Training and Knowledge Transfer:** To empower ABC Bank's IT team to manage the new NGFW environment effectively, EITS provided extensive training on Palo Alto NGFW management, best practices, and troubleshooting.

Results:

The NGFW Migration Service yielded significant benefits for the Bank:

- **Enhanced Security:** The advanced security features of Palo Alto NGFWs significantly improved the bank's ability to detect and prevent cyber threats, safeguarding sensitive customer data and financial transactions.
- **Simplified Management:** The optimized rule sets and user-friendly management interface simplified firewall administration, reducing the risk of configuration errors.
- **Compliance Adherence:** Palo Alto NGFWs provided the necessary features and reporting capabilities required to meet regulatory compliance requirements, ensuring the bank's adherence to industry standards.
- **Improved Performance and Scalability:** The new NGFWs delivered superior performance and scalability, enabling ABC Bank to manage increasing network traffic and accommodate future growth seamlessly.
- **Minimal Downtime:** The phased migration approach minimized disruptions to bank operations, ensuring a smooth and secure transition from the legacy firewall to the Palo Alto NGFW.
- **Ongoing Support and Managed Services:** EITS continued to provide post-migration support, including 24/7 monitoring, incident response, and regular updates, ensuring the NGFW environment remained secure and up to date.

By selecting EITS to migrating to Palo Alto Networks NGFWs, ABC Bank bolstered its network security, achieved regulatory compliance, and improved overall network performance, safeguarding its reputation and customer trust in an increasingly complex cybersecurity landscape.



EITS helps businesses, education and government agencies build and manage secure IT environments for a changing world. We secure what matters most: their business, their IT environment, their intellectual property and their reputation. Our holistic approach addresses the Architectural, Operational and Organizational facets of Information Security applying a proven architecture blueprint for scalable, agile, manageable IT environments, hardened to DOD-level security standards. Agencies and businesses who have suffered severe data breaches have tapped EITS to remediate their issues, and to dramatically lower the risk of future events. We are driven by our culture of Excellence and Substance: We Always Make Mission.