

Implementing information security solutions at Moscow School of Management SKOLKOVO

Case study



Client

Moscow School of Management SKOLKOVO is a joint project of Russian and international business representatives to create new-generation business schools. Emphasizing practical skills, Moscow School of Management focuses on training leaders, who intend to apply their professional skills in a rapidly growing market environment. What makes SKOLKOVO different: leadership, entrepreneurship, a focus on rapidly emerging markets and an innovative approach to training methods.

The project of Moscow School of Management SKOLKOVO is implemented by a private-public partnership as part of the priority national project, *Obrazovanie* (Education). Chairman of SKOLKOVO International Board of Trustees is the Chairman of the Russian Federation Government, Dmitry Medvedev.

Since 2006, SKOLKOVO has implemented short-term Executive Education programs for senior and middle managers. The programs are conducted in an open and specialized format, and include integrated modules that have been developed to the requests of companies. In January 2009, SKOLKOVO launched the first Executive MBA program. September 2009 saw the first international full-time MBA program and, in June 2012, the SKOLKOVO Academy was started.

Goals

The Moscow School of Management SKOLKOVO decided to secure its IT resources. The goal was to:



1. Implement flexible, functional information security (IS) systems.



2. Integrate the components with each other and with the existing infocommunication infrastructure of SKOLKOVO.



3. Meet the international requirements for modern information security facilities.

Solution

To achieve these goals, the management of Moscow School of Management SKOLKOVO selected innovative products by Blue Coat, RSA Security and BalaBit. The selected systems were integrated by leading Russian system integrator I-Teco, who also participated in designing and deploying the security system. The system accomplishes the following functions:

1. Employees, teachers, students and visitors of the business school can securely access the Internet by Blue Coat ProxySG and Blue Coat ProxyAV



- These appliances monitor the traffic and the activity of users, and create detailed reports in a format corresponding to corporate standards.
- To unify access settings, the traffic is transparently forwarded to the Blue Coat ProxySG server using the Web Cache Communication Protocol (WCCP).
- Users can access the World Wide Web from PCs and mobile devices (iOS, Android, BlackBerry, and so on).
- To detect viruses in the traffic, the Blue Coat ProxySG sends the content to analyze to Blue Coat ProxyAV using the Internet Content Adaptation Protocol (ICAP).
- Secure remote access is available using different VPN solutions: Cisco IPSec, a full SSL VPN tunnel (based on Cisco AnyConnect) and a client-less, browser-based SSL VPN.

2. Users authenticate their secure remote connections using RSA SecurID



The users have software or hardware tokens generating one-time passwords that are used to authenticate on a RSA Authentication Manager server. Authorization is based on data from a consolidated Active Directory.

The RSA SecurID solution is integrated into the remote-access sub-system of Moscow School of Management SKOLKOVO, which is based on Cisco ASA and Cisco ACS.

3. Privileged user activity is monitored using BalaBit solution

BalaBit Shell Control Box (BalaBit SCB) controls privileged users remotely accessing the head office equipment. BalaBit SCB can:



- record and store audit trails of the monitored sessions in a special format that can compress 1 minute of an RDP-session to less than 1 MB;
- execute full-text search in the texts and commands;
- create reports of the monitored sessions, collecting statistics on individual users, protocols, IP addresses, and so on.

The project was implemented in several phases, including the evaluation of the client's information system, preparation of a reference system and a solution design, creation of a test system and launching a pilot. After successfully completing the tests and the trial period, the system went into production in September 2011.

Results

Several security solutions have been successfully implemented at Moscow School of Management SKOLKOVO:

- Internet access is now protected for different user groups;
- Secure remote access is available using different VPN solutions: Cisco IPSec, a full SSL VPN tunnel (based on Cisco AnyConnect) and a client-less, browser-based SSL VPN;
- The activity of remote system administrators is monitored;
- Remote user access is secured and possible even from mobile devices.



The network of Moscow School of Management SKOLKOVO has been modernized, including the optimization of switchboard settings, as well. The newly implemented solutions have been integrated with the organization's infocommunication infrastructure.

After the first year in operation, the management of Moscow School of Management SKOLKOVO experienced a high level of information system protection provided by BalaBit IT Security, RSA Security and Blue Coat.

Comments

"The need for a multifunctional and innovative protection system for our school arose quite a long time ago. The challenging task, as it turned out, was to find leading IS solutions that meet today's demands and provide a high level protection for real security threats. Relying on the rich experience of our implementation partner I-Teco, we chose the systems of leading global vendors on the IS market such as Blue Coat, RSA Security and BalaBit, and we had no regrets. Moscow School of Management SKOLKOVO has been using these solutions for over a year and it is worth noting that these systems provide stable operation and ensure protection of our information resources."

Alexey Vovk, Head of Information Security at Moscow School of Management SKOLKOVO

"The success of this remarkable project, which is interesting and unique for the entire IS sector, is the team work of a large number of highly qualified technical experts. The system was designed, implemented and, for almost an entire year now, has been successfully functioning, providing information security for the business school. All this could become possible not only due to the well-organized work of the I-Teco team and the vendor representatives, but mostly due to the progressive attitude of the managers of the IS division of Moscow School of Management SKOLKOVO, and their readiness to deploy innovations. We thank all project participants for contribution with valuable inputs to create a technologically complex and effective solution such as the comprehensive security system of the business school."

Oleg Kuzmin, Director of the Information Security Department at I-Teco

"Client-less SSL VPN can be used when it is necessary to give protected access to internal resources for users who don't have administrative privileges on a computer (for example in an Internet cafe) or use devices that do not support the IPSec protocol. Access can be also provided to resources of the internal corporate portal (HTTP), to general corporate folders (CIFS) and to several other possibilities (RDP, Citrix and others) by using a standard browser (IE7 or newer, FireFox, Opera, Chrome)."

Dmitriy Guryanov, Director of IT Department at Demos, the solution distributor of RSA Security in Russia

"The key factor of making a decision in favor of Blue Coat was its broad technological capabilities, the simplicity of implementation and usage, and the optimal solution in terms of price/quality. In addition to accomplishing the primary objectives, project implementation optimized the client's network infrastructure and ensured conformity with the requirements of international information security standards. The unified management console from Blue Coat in combination with the flexible reporting system and content processing policies helped to keep the number of engineers needed to operate this solution low."

Alexey Krivonos, Technical Director of headtechnology RU, the Blue Coat distributor in Russia

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