

Orio Al Serio International Airport



S.A.C.B.O. S.p.A.

Overview

Industry

- Transportation

Challenge

- Sophisticated cyber-attackers and rapidly-evolving threats
- Digitization of airport practices
- Limited network visibility
- Insider threat

Results

- Next-generation threat detection in real time
- Ability to carry out deeper investigation and risk mitigation
- 100% network visibility
- 3D graphical Threat Visualizer interface

Business Background

Il Caravaggio - Orio al Serio International Airport, sometimes referred to as Milan-Bergamo International Airport, is situated just outside Bergamo city in Northern Italy and 45 miles north-east of Milan. Managed by SACBO SpA (Società per l'Aeroporto Civile di Bergamo-Orio), it is the third busiest Italian airport with over 11 million passengers each year. The international airport is the second largest Ryanair hub in Europe, after London Stansted.

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The unparalleled level of visibility and next-generation threat detection capability makes Darktrace's technology one of a kind.

Ettore Pizzaballa, ICT Manager, SACBO SpA

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Challenge

The latest technological advancements employed by airports in general, including Wi-Fi networks, online check-in, automated baggage systems, electronic passports and unmanned border controls, have improved efficiency and organization. However, the digitization of airport practices also creates potential vulnerabilities and possible entry-points for cyber adversaries. This is a pressing concern for airports, which are already a likely target for malicious attacks.

As part of Italy's critical national infrastructure, Orio al Serio International Airport has a profile of interest to a range of potential cyber-attackers. As such, the airport was keen to strengthen its cyber defense strategy with the latest, most innovative cyber technology available.

Moreover, the airport wanted complete network visibility in order to have a thorough understanding of its employee and user behaviors and, therefore, be better prepared to detect any potential insider threat. Given the number of devices logging onto the airport's main network every day, the need for transparency into all activity was crucial.

Ultimately, Orio al Serio International Airport needed a cyber security technology capable of detecting potential threats, inside and outside its network, that may aim to target its critical assets and disrupt its vital operating systems.

Solution

After completing a 4-week Proof of Value ('POV') with Darktrace's Enterprise Immune System, Orio al Serio International Airport was impressed by the technology's ability to achieve real-time threat detection.

Powered by enterprise-grade AI, the self-learning technology is inspired by the biological principals of the human immune system. It is capable of modeling the behaviors of every user, device, and network as a whole to establish a 'pattern of life' specific to Orio al Serio International Airport's network.

Using its dynamic understanding of what is normal, the technology automatically detects any cyber-threats that deviate from the norm, without using any rules or signatures, reporting the threats to the airport's security team. All alerts are presented via Darktrace's Threat Visualizer, a 3D graphical interface that also provides a topological representation of Orio al Serio International Airport's network and the activities within it.

Benefits

Thanks to Darktrace's 'immune system' technology, Orio al Serio International Airport is now alerted to anomalous behavior indicative of genuine cyber-threats, in real time. The Threat Visualizer functions allow the airport's security team to look back in time at how events unfolded, dig deeper into specific devices, and carry out any necessary risk mitigation to prevent serious damage.

Soon after deploying the Enterprise Immune System, the airport was notified to a number of potentially problematic incidents. For example, a flash proxy (that had gone previously unnoticed) and various weak points in the network, which were being unknowingly accessed by the public. The airport now has 100% network visibility and, therefore, a much better understanding of its employee and user behaviors.

In 2019, Darktrace was awarded 'Cyber Security Company of the Year' at Le Fonti Awards in Milan. The judging panel attributed the award to Darktrace and Orio al Serio International Airport's innovative approach to securing the airport's complex digital infrastructure.



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