Overview

Industry
Telecommunications

Challenge
- Detecting never-before-seen cyber-threats
- Gaining visibility into complex infrastructure
- Insufficient reporting and context to investigate emerging threats
- Ensuring employee compliance with internal policies

Results
- Able to detect and investigate novel threats before they do damage
- Complete visibility of every user and device
- Self-learning AI that evolves with the business
- Resilient and adaptive security posture

Business Background

RigNet is a global technology and telecommunications company headquartered in Houston, Texas. Operating through three segments – Managed Services, Applications and Internet of Things, and Systems Integration – RigNet provides customized networking and cyber security solutions to customers primarily in the energy, maritime, and aviation industries. In light of its expansive telecommunications infrastructure, RigNet had been searching for an AI-based security platform capable of safeguarding its critical systems and data against advanced attacks, wherever they originate.

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Keith Frederick, CISO, RigNet

Challenge

RigNet offers a highly diverse range of services and applications to organizations around the world, and as a result, it maintains a complex global network that presents significant security challenges. And while cyber defense has long been a point of emphasis for the company, its efforts to gain complete visibility into its digital operations led it to utilize an array of conventional security tools that proved difficult to manage collectively and to leverage fully. Indeed, the need to streamline and expedite the threat detection process is especially pronounced for the telecommunications sector, whose vast databases of sensitive customer information are prime targets for today’s fast-acting cyber-attacks.
With so much lucrative information at stake, cyber-criminals are regularly devising innovative techniques to breach tech and telco firms like RigNet. At the same time, conventional security systems – which rely on past threats to predict future ones – miss such innovative attacks that are designed to look unlike anything seen before. In addition to these external threats, RigNet also sought to forestall the serious risks posed by malicious and negligent insiders, specifically by ensuring that its employees observed compliance policies when online. Ultimately, the company recognized that retaining its position as an industry leader hinged on its ability to counter advanced attacks with proactive defenses that can adapt to a rapidly evolving threat landscape.

**Solution**

Following the completion of a successful Proof of Value (POV), RigNet deployed Darktrace’s Enterprise Immune System across its entire digital network. Powered by enterprise-grade cyber AI, the Enterprise Immune System learns a unique and evolving ‘pattern of life’ for every user and device in the network. This continuously refined sense of ‘self,’ which evolves as RigNet’s network grows, enables Darktrace to detect subtle deviations that characterize never-before-seen threats.

RigNet has also benefited from Darktrace’s Threat Visualizer interface, which automatically generates and prioritizes critical alerts for investigation. With the Threat Visualizer’s accessible, 3D overview of RigNet’s network, the company has found that both its security specialists and executives can quickly understand the essential details around what happened before, during, and after a security incident occurred.

“Information is one thing, and Darktrace gives us the information we need to investigate security incidents,” commented Frederick. “But how does a person actually take in information to make a decision? That’s really where Darktrace excels: it doesn’t just provide information, it provides actionable intelligence.”

**Benefits**

Because the technology is self-learning and continuously refines its understanding of ‘normal’ in light of new evidence, Darktrace allows the company to visualize its entire network as it evolves and investigate emerging threats in a single view. Such adaptive network oversight has transformed RigNet’s security posture. It can now readily verify that its firewalls are working properly, monitor when its own employees breach internal policies, and investigate attacks with almost unlimited contextualizing information at its disposal. In fact, Darktrace’s functionality is so extensive that RigNet no longer needs many of its previously deployed security tools.

“Tasks that used to take a half dozen tools or more, deployed everywhere across our different systems, Darktrace does from a single interface,” said Keith Frederick, CISO at RigNet.

Perhaps most critically, the Enterprise Immune System enables RigNet to stay a step ahead of today’s sophisticated attackers, affording the firm confidence in the integrity of its data and in the resiliency of its infrastructure. With Darktrace’s protection, RigNet’s security team is now armed with the real-time threat detection and intelligence capabilities necessary to fight back against even the most advanced online adversaries.

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