

Sunsweet



Overview

Industry

- Agriculture Manufacturing

Challenge

- No ability to view insider traffic
- Concerned about increasingly automated and sophisticated threats
- Lean security team
- Needed a proactive approach to cyber defense

Results

- Threat Visualizer provides visibility into network
- Enterprise Immune System detects fast-moving attacks in real-time
- Enjoys greater confidence in security stack
- Now has capability of mitigating threats within minutes

Business Background

Founded in 1917, and based out of Yuba City, California, Sunsweet is the world's largest manufacturer of dried fruit, controlling more than a third of the global prune market. Operating the largest dried fruit plant in the world, it produces nearly 70,000 tons of prunes per year. Its network contains the sensitive data of nearly 300 grower-members, in addition to employee, customer, and proprietary information.

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Terrell Johnson, Manager of Systems and Networks, Sunsweet

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Challenge

Given the increasingly sophisticated nature of cyber-threats coupled with the prevalence of automated attacks, Sunsweet was primarily concerned about adopting a proactive approach to cyber defense. Fast-moving threats like ransomware can wreak havoc on a network in mere minutes and Sunsweet needed a tool that could alert the security team of these types of attacks, in real time, and empower them to mitigate the threat before it escalates to a crisis. Further, it felt that its previous strategy emphasized retroactively taking action on threats, it needed a tool that could sit inside the network to identify cyber-attacks as they were emerging, and not weeks later.

"We were increasingly worried about the prevalence of automated attacks, like ransomware," commented Terrell Johnson, Manager of Systems and Networks, Sunsweet. "It's becoming nearly impossible to try and stay on top of these new machine-based threats. We needed a tool that could secure our network from the inside out, and identify these threats in real-time."

Sunsweet also felt it lacked complete visibility into its vast network. It wanted to be capable of viewing all insider traffic, including rogue devices and IoT. Additionally, the team lacked confidence in its ability to detect zero-day exploits, or the 'unknown unknowns'. Compounding on all of these challenges, Sunsweet has a lean security team and wanted a tool that could meet these objectives while easing the burden on staff.

Solution

In an effort to initiate a more proactive security approach, Sunsweet deployed Darktrace's Enterprise Immune System into the core of its network. After a prompt installation, which required no additional tuning or configuration, Sunsweet could immediately see all network traffic mapped onto the 3D Threat Visualizer.

"Darktrace's machine learning is truly unparalleled," commented Johnson. "As soon as we deployed the technology, we were able to instantly see every device on our network. It was evident from day one that the technology was truly learning at a remarkably detailed level what was 'normal' for our network."

A few weeks after deployment, the technology demonstrated its power when it alerted Sunsweet to an anomaly within the network – a piece of malware had infected a company machine. The security team was able to clean the machine and solve the problem within an hour of infiltration.

"It would have normally taken us several weeks to spot something like this," added Johnson. "With Darktrace, we were able to see the infection as it emerged, and were then able to fix the issue before it ever truly became one."

Powered by unsupervised machine learning, Darktrace works by learning a 'pattern of life' for every user and device across the entire network, including the physical network, IoT, and rogue devices. From this precise understanding of 'self', it can then identify threats at their nascent stages, in real time, without the use of rules, signatures, or prior assumptions.

Benefits

Equipped with the Enterprise Immune System, Sunsweet now has greater confidence in its ability to stay on top of an increasingly sophisticated landscape where attacks can be executed by machines at lightning speeds. Additionally, because the technology has an innate and comprehensive understanding of 'normal', it ranks threats according to their degree of abnormality, lessening the burden on the security team.

"Darktrace's machine learning has allowed my IT operations team to be more efficient," commented Johnson. "Because of the 'immune system' approach, we no longer have to spend hours pouring through logs and trying to predict what 'bad' is in advance."

Additionally, Sunsweet now has an unprecedented awareness of its network, including all inside traffic. The Threat Visualizer gives complete visibility of the network in real time, allowing the team to not only detect emerging threats, but also to bring weaker areas into focus, ultimately helping increase efficiency.

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With the Enterprise Immune System, Sunsweet has positioned itself as an industry leader. By relying on the latest advancements in unsupervised machine learning and artificial intelligence, it has increased productivity while enjoying greater confidence in its ability to stay abreast of a threat landscape that is increasingly characterized by speed, sophistication, and automation.

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Terrell Johnson, Manager of Systems and Networks, Sunsweet

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