BeyondTrust™

VISIBILITY. KNOWLEDGE. ACTION.

RWE Supply & Trading Secures Against User and Asset-Based Risks

BEYONDTRUST CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY

Challenge: Reduce the Attack Surface While Meeting Budgetary and Regulatory Constraints

THE COMPANY

RWE Supply & Trading is a leading energy trading house and a key player in the European energy sector. The organisation serves as the interface between the RWE Group and the global wholesale markets for energy and energy-related raw materials.

THE CHALLENGE

The European energy sector is undergoing fundamental changes, with subsidised expansion of renewables causing margins and utilisation of conventional power stations to decline, thereby requiring energy providers to reduce costs. But against this cost reduction, energy providers such as RWE Supply & Trading cannot sacrifice security.

As the IT Security Architect for RWE Supply & Trading, Loucas Parikos needed to protect the infrastructure while meeting these cost and regulatory constraints. "We wanted to reduce the attack surface and minimise our chances of being exploited." In taking a phased approach, RWE addressed individual problems separately and then brought the solutions together under a common reporting and management platform.

SOLUTION: ELIMINATE ADMIN RIGHTS WITHOUT IMPACTING USERS

RWE's initial focus was to reduce the high number of calls to the IT Help Desk resulting from out-of-policy employee downloads. There is a downside to allowing users to have administrative rights, and it is important to ensure that users would not be manipulated by malware that could have avoided detection.

Parikos, however, was concerned about simply removing admin rights from employees. Employees needed a way to download and install the software needed to perform their responsibilities, without impacting their productivity or support staff. It was also important that both their standard desktops and their extensive use of Citrix VDI were accommodated. RWE Supply & Trading considered many solutions, and conducted a Proof of Concept of several products, including PowerBroker for Windows from BeyondTrust.

During the Proof of Concept (POC), RWE extensively evaluated and tested how each product would work in their environment. It was essential that all applications used on employees' systems could be installed by users without admin privileges. It was also important to Parikos how applications could be upgraded, and the amount of management effort needed to initially implement and then administer the solution on an ongoing basis.

BeyondTrust has been extremely helpful. Their efforts during the POC showed their depth of support and willingness to assist us throughout the buying process, and beyond. In the end, we knew we could depend upon BeyondTrust.

— Loucas Parikos, IT Security, RWE

Solution Summary

CUSTOMER TYPE

Energy trading house within a major European energy provider.

CHALLENGE

Reduce the attack surface while meeting budgetary and minimise the chance of .being exploited.

SOLUTION

PowerBroker for Windows

Retina CS Enterprise Vulnerability Management

PowerBroker Password safe

BeyondInsight IT Risk Management Platform

Our initial success in working with BeyondTrust to eliminate admin rights propelled us to seek other components that could also be monitored from BeyondInsight. The reporting capabilities and recommendations are excellent, and the more assets we scanned, the more useful those insights became in prioritising our remediation efforts.

— Loucas Parikos, IT Security, RWE

The PowerBroker for Windows solution from BeyondTrust allowed RWE Supply & Trading to eliminate admin rights on all users' PCs as well as allow fine-grained control of privileges on the Windows Servers. RWE Supply & Trading could control the functions permitted on servers, whether accessed by local employees, contractors, employees from other divisions, or by groups to which RWE outsourced.

SOLUTION: IDENTIFYING & PRIORITISING SECURITY EXPOSURES

Once local admin had been eliminated on users' machines, Parikos next moved on to a second attack surface: vulnerabilities across all IT resources. After undertaking a Proof of Concept of several vulnerability management products and an extended evaluation period, RWE Supply & Trading selected Retina CS Enterprise Vulnerability Management from BeyondTrust. Retina CS scans their disparate and heterogeneous environment to identify security exposures, leveraging the results into a consolidated set of actions based on specific vulnerabilities found during the scans. "The reporting capabilities provide insight and help us prioritise our risks across the entire environment based on industry data about specific vulnerabilities," Parikos noted.

SOLUTION: TAKING CONTROL OF PRIVILEGED PASSWORDS

The third step for Parikos was the management of the passwords that access RWE's 1000+ Windows servers and 200+ Unix systems. He wanted to track who accessed the various privileged accounts on these systems and know what had been done during that access. "The fact that PowerBroker Password Safe not only recorded those privileged sessions, but also reported that data made PowerBroker Password Safe an obvious choice," said Parikos.

BRINGING IT ALL TOGETHER WITH BEYONDINSIGHT

The BeyondInsight IT Risk Management Platform, included with PowerBroker for Windows, Retina CS and PowerBroker Password Safe, provides centralized policy management and reporting across RWE's environment. Rather than delivering static, outdated or confusing data about a large number of potential vulnerabilities, Parikos noted that, "BeyondInsight provides concise reporting and analytics that highlight the riskiest issues that are of specific concern in our environment."

PowerBroker for Windows also leverages application vulnerability data available in Retina CS through BeyondInsight to make critical decisions on which applications to elevate, and which are too risky. Finally, BeyondInsight — as the reporting engine for Password Safe — reports on privileged sessions, password aging and rotation and more to provide the intelligence needed to better secure the environment.

THE RESULTS: LESS RISK & LOWER TOTAL COST OF OWNERSHIP FROM A SINGLE VENDOR

By combining a view of what applications are used by their Windows users, the vulnerabilities in their assets, and the actions of their privileged users on their Windows and Unix servers, BeyondInsight provides an effective combined view of the risks for RWE Supply & Trading. BeyondTrust proved to be a one stop shop for RWE.

About BeyondTrust

BeyondTrust is a global security company that believes preventing data breaches requires the right visibility to enable control over internal and external risks.

We give you the visibility to confidently reduce risks and the control to take proactive, informed action against data breach threats. And because threats can come from anywhere, we built a platform that unifies the most effective technologies for addressing both internal and external risk: Privileged Account Management and Vulnerability Management. Our solutions grow with your needs, making sure you maintain control no matter where your organization goes.

BeyondTrust's security solutions are trusted by over 4,000 customers worldwide, including half of the Fortune 100.

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