

Cutting-Edge Firewall Delivers Extended Network Security to Centre Régional d'investissement de Casablanca

The Casablanca-Settat Regional Investment Center in Casablanca, Morocco is a Government organization focusing on driving new business creation, offering assistance to investment projects, highlighting the attractiveness of the Casablanca-Settat region as a business destination, and improving the overall regional business climate to attract investments. This center is serious about security and believes it is one of the core pillars which ensures business continuity and the protection of client data. The organization was looking for a network security solution that extended advanced protection to its branch offices, seamlessly and comprehensively.

CUSTOMER-AT-A-GLANCE

**Casablanca-Settat Regional
Investment Center**

Industry
Government

Website
<https://casainvest.ma/en>

Number of Users
500

Sophos Solutions
4* XG 210 Rev.3 Security
Appliance - EU/UK power cord
4* XG 210 EnterpriseGuard with
Enhanced Support - 12 MOS
1* XG 310 rev. 2 Security
Appliance - EU/UK power cord
1* XG 310 EnterpriseGuard with
Enhanced Support - 12 MOS

'For us cutting-edge protection guarantees our network perimeter is safe from advanced threats. It's important that this protection is not limited to our head office but extends to our branch offices whose networks can also be susceptible to sophisticated threats. With Sophos, we were able to boost our network security, secure our processes, and achieve peace of mind knowing our organizations and distributed locations can avoid any risk.'

Mrs. HAKIMI Loubna, Responsable du Service Digitalisation, Centre Régional d'Investissement - Région Casablanca-Settat

Challenges

- The need to adhere to Morocco's data protection law n° 09-08 that seeks to drive organizations to institute and enforce security protocols that protect personal information.
- A small IT team tasked with managing the security requirements of an organization spread across multiple offices.
- Ever-increasing concerns regarding the evolving threat landscape and innovative threat actors which could exploit network vulnerabilities
- Interest in establishing proper security measures to serve the organization's Business Continuity Plan.
- Substantial security gaps because of unprotected branch offices, which could place the network and critical sensitive data at risk.

Security as a Business Challenge

Security is a critical business initiative at Casablanca-Settat Regional Investment Center. The 10-member strong IT team led by Mrs. Hakimi Loubna, Responsable du Service Digitalisation recognizes the huge role played by security as a business enabler. "Security is a key pillar of a business's growth initiative and in a rapidly evolving threat scenario, we cannot afford to be lax about our cybersecurity infrastructure," says Mrs. Loubna.

The IT team understands that unprotected areas can allow the easiest means of gaining unauthorized network access to attackers. The team was therefore looking for a network security solution for not only its HQ but also its branch

offices, which could be managed remotely. The idea behind remote security management was to ensure the team could optimally manage the security needs spread across different locations.

The Casablanca-Settat Regional Investment Center is growing quickly, adding additional investors and projects. This growth is tied in with increasing amount of both organizational and client data that needs to be protected. The team required an industry-leading firewall solution which allowed the organization to meet all of their security goals.

The Journey Towards Sophos as a Security Vendor of Choice

Mrs. Loubna and her team decided to thoroughly research the security vendor market to identify a solution to perfectly meet their needs and requirements. The search was based on certain prerequisites that would have a comprehensive impact on the organization's cybersecurity posture:

- Identified vulnerabilities needed to be eliminated
- Implementation of privileged network access for authorized personnel only
- All network documents must be complete and accurate
- The ability to conduct risk assessments immediately after a serious IT security incident

After searching for a leading-edge security solution that met all requirements and surpassed expectations, the customer zeroed in on Sophos XG Firewall as the ideal security component of their cybersecurity infrastructure. The IT team evaluated the pricing, comparing it against the value of local team help and support. Casablanca-Settat Regional Investment Center had no doubt that Sophos was the right solution.

Sophos XG Firewall – A Solution for Security Challenges and Expectations

Sophos XG Firewall offers Centre Régional d'Investissement - Région Casablanca-Settat protection to stop advanced attacks and threats, network security, and network access is granted to trusted users only. Deployed at its head

quarters and branch offices, XG Firewall creates an extended security web that is an impenetrable safeguard against an evolving threat landscape.

Going beyond legacy server and network protection, the Sophos XG Firewall's next-gen intrusion prevention system delivers advanced protection from all types of known and unknown threats and also secures all network users and apps.

The organization also benefits from Sophos' Web Protection engine, driven by intelligence from SophosLabs. The SophosLabs team provides unbeatable analysis capabilities such as behavioral analysis and origin reputation to protect the network against sophisticated multi-stage attacks launched from the web. To further enhance the organization's security posture, features like pharming protection, guard against phishing attacks while deep HTTPS scanning looks through encrypted traffic.

The IT Team utilizes Sophos XG Firewall to implement and enforce rules and policies to restrict user access based on user identity. The team also leverages the graphics visibility offered by network components across remote sites to maintain accurate network documentation. XG Firewall not only helps Casablanca-Settat Regional Investment Center identify vulnerabilities, but also provides the vulnerability location on the network. This has helped Mrs. Loubna and her team move from reactive to a proactive and a far more beneficial cybersecurity model.

Deployment Results

The IT team is now able to control the IT infrastructure costs. Consequently, the most substantial benefit of the move to Sophos XG Firewall is that the telecommunication costs have decreased significantly as they no longer have to pay a huge amount for MPLS links.

Also, managing the center's overall security environment has become simpler and seamless for the team, thus helping them experience optimal ROI from Sophos XG Firewall. While previously, it was only the head office that was protected and remote sites unprotected, the XG Firewall ensures that even remote site users receive the same level of security that the headquarter enjoys. This has enabled Casablanca-Settat Regional Investment Center to meet all compliance of the 09-08 data protection law.

Sophos partner Innovatech Engineering SARL was helpful to the customer throughout the entire process from evaluation to deployment. Innovatech helped Casablanca-Settat Regional Investment Center select the right XG Firewall model with detailed guidance and input. Additionally, this strategic partner worked closely with the IT team to deploy 6 Firewall appliances and customized security architecture perfectly suited for the organization's needs.

Security is no longer a silo and extends to all branch offices. The unified console has centralized the organization's approach to security, which provides a detailed view of security and another step ahead of cyber threats. The results from XG Firewall deployment have been so positive that the customer is now considering Sophos endpoint security to bolster the organization's security even further. "With Sophos Firewall, my organization has got the kind of protection it needs for its diverse and distributed networks. It is configured to handle demanding workloads and has superior network adaptability. We now confident that we have complete protection from the evolving threat landscape and sophisticated threats," signs off Mrs. Lubna.

Insert Sophos CTA.