CASE STUDY

HYPER BOX TACKLES ATTACK TRAFFIC WITH IXIA THREATARMOR

Company:

Hyper Box Co., Ltd.

Established: October, 2000

Location: Shinjuku, Tokyo

Business: domain registration, hosting, housing, cloud services, SaaS/ASP, SI

Key Goals:

- Impose resistance against ever-increasing cyberattacks
- Increase the operational load of security devices
- Strengthen security measures at low cost

Solution:

- ThreatARMOR 1G Appliance

Results:

- Number of intrusions detected by IDSs dropped from 1 million to 200K
- Fewer alerts generated saving the security team significant time
- Cost-effective solution to maximize existing IDS and firewall tools and defer new CapEx purchases

Hyper Box, a veteran of the Japanese Internet industry, had been suffering in recent years from a glut of cyberattacks. Since they were unable to utilize powerful security devices over the shared network provided by their service, they were forced to constantly check logs and manually respond to attacks on a daily basis. As a result, Hyper Box was interested in learning how Ixia ThreatARMOR delivers on its promise of filtering known bad IP addresses and minimizing SIEM alerts.

Hyper Box's strength is its robust support structure, concentrated at its data centers in Tokyo. Known in the industry for its low-cost, high-quality hosting services, Hyper Box is Japan's first domestic enterprise to provide telephone assistance 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Know-how and years of technical experience allow Hyper Box to support a wide range of users.

SHIFTING FROM MANUAL TO AUTOMATED RESPONSES TO MASSIVE ATTACK TRAFFIC

Hyper Box had been suffering from the cyberattacks, like many of the domestic and international service providers. The onslaught of attack traffic into the network has increased every year. Finding ways to counter it was becoming increasingly challenging. Attack traffic would sometimes cause the server to crash entirely, making it necessary to take extra measures to protect user systems.

Essential security infrastructures, such as firewalls or IDSs, were in place. However, unlike the networks of private enterprises, shared networks providing services to users are unable to adopt aggressive measures for counterattacks due to the risk of blocking user communication.

As a result, Mr. Naoya Matsuura, who oversees network and security operations in the Engineering department at Hyper Box, resorted to taking manual countermeasures to the massive attack traffic.

SECURITY OPERATIONS AUTOMATED AT LOW COST

While investigating countermeasures, Hyper Box discovered an article introducing ThreatARMOR. The concept of automatically eliminating unnecessary traffic based on known threats was the same idea behind the manual countermeasures Mr. Matsuura had been implementing.

At that time, ThreatARMOR was a new product. Mr. Matsuura contacted Ixia to observe a test run on actual user machines. Normally, a new product is not introduced until after proof of concept (PoC) tests, but Mr. Matsuura decided to introduce ThreatARMOR to the network during the demonstration.

There were many reasons Mr. Matsuura opted to use ThreatARMOR, but a main one was its proprietary "ATI Rap Sheet," which indicates why each instance of blocked traffic is flagged. That kind of information makes ThreatARMOR much more than just a simple black box.

"I was thrilled with the level of sensitivity to the network operation. One reason is that ThreatARMOR employs a fail-open system, and even when trouble occurs, communication is never interrupted," said Mr. Matsuura. "In contrast, most security devices adopt a fail-close system, which makes them inappropriate for use over a shared network," he added. In his opinion, "ThreatARMOR is ideal for helping to strengthen the security of service providers' networks."

NUMBER OF INTRUSIONS DETECTED BY IDS REDUCED TO ONE-FIFTH WITH FURTHER REDUCTIONS EXPECTED

After seeing the demo, Hyper Box moved quickly and ThreatARMOR went into operation at the end of March. In the

"Attacks to web servers can reach 3 million cases a day. It is impossible to prevent this volume of attacks manually."

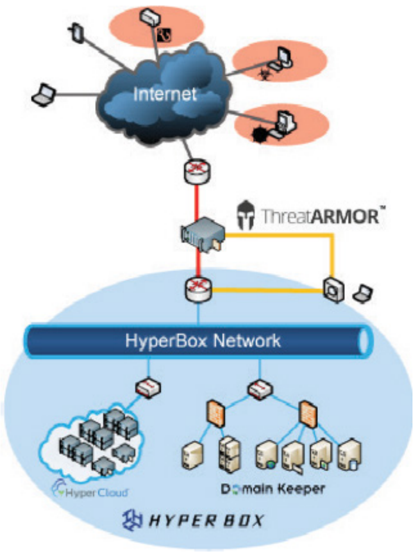
"Ixia's real-world demo provided excellent protection against the same kinds of attack traffic that I have been struggling with every day."
— Mr. Matsuura,
Engineering Department

early stages, performance and functions were tested once again in a TAP/remote mode and also monitored. However, after about a month, the system was switched to an inline/block mode.

ThreatARMOR blocked 4% of all Hyper Box's traffic. Considering the enormous amount of traffic flowing into Hyper Box's shared networks, this percentage meant that a considerable number of attacks was successfully blocked. The number of intrusions detected by the IDSs decreased from 1 million cases to 200k cases. In addition, Mr. Matsuura saw a decrease in the amount of spam e-mails.

Mr. Matsuura appreciated how easy it was to implement ThreatARMOR, and noted that the sophisticated management interface is especially user-friendly. He was particularly pleased with how the system status can be checked by merely looking at a dashboard. He said that he used to frantically watch the logs of firewalls and IDSs. Now, however, blocked attacks can be recognized at a glance, providing peace of mind.

"Thanks to ThreatARMOR, we can devote our time to research and planning, in order to provide better services," said Mr. Matsuura. In addition, he is looking forward to seeing how Ixia expands the range and applications of ThreatARMOR in the future.



How Hyper Box configured Ixia's ThreatARMOR in its network

ABOUT IXIA

Ixia provides testing, visibility, and security solutions, strengthening physical and virtual network elements for enterprises, governments, service providers, and network equipment manufacturers.

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