

Innovative Panamanian Bank Accelerates Secure Migration to the Cloud

Banco Delta protects its people, data, and infrastructure with a unified, device-to-cloud McAfee security ecosystem



Banco Delta

Customer Profile

Central American microfinance bank that provides credit, insurance, and savings products to small businesses

Industry

Banking, Finance

IT Environment

400 endpoints across the Republic of Panama

For Banco Delta, a microfinance bank headquartered in Panama City, The Republic of Panama, the Covid-19 pandemic increased the urgency of moving to the cloud. Previously, the bank had simplified security management and built out a cohesive, orchestrated McAfee on-premises security infrastructure. Implementing a cloud-native portfolio of McAfee® MVISION™ solutions fast-tracked the bank's transition to the cloud, empowering its security team to extend existing on-premises security policies and robust data loss protection to their cloud services.

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CASE STUDY

Ariel Picans, technology risk manager at Banco Delta, is responsible for overseeing the security posture of the bank's 400 endpoints and safeguarding the assets that reside both within the perimeter of the organization and in the cloud. His goal is to ensure that sensitive financial information, databases, documents, and customer data are secured against known and emerging threats. To this end, over the past decade he and his team have built a multilayered, fully-integrated defense infrastructure based on McAfee solutions—one that has also simplified and consolidated security management and governance.

Newly Remote Workforce Drives Need for Faster Cloud Adoption

"When the Covid-19 pandemic hit, suddenly 80% of our workforce became remote employees," recalls Picans. "We planned to move increasingly to the cloud, but the pandemic increased the urgency. Our IT group wanted to put applications in [Microsoft] Azure to empower all these remote employees but the public cloud's built-in defenses were simply not adequate. We needed a way to secure sensitive data in the cloud as robustly as we secure it on premises—and we needed to do so immediately."

Unified Device-to-Cloud Platform from a Trusted Security Leader

Starting with endpoint protection ten years ago, Banco Delta has repeatedly turned to McAfee solutions to meet cybersecurity needs because of their continued success defending against threats. Every year, the bank undergoes an external penetration test and vulnerability assessments to expose security gaps.

"Whereas competitive banks have failed the pen test and experienced data breaches, we have continued to pass the test and been able to carry on without disruption, thanks in large part to our integrated McAfee infrastructure," notes Ariel. "Positive reviews from industry analysts like Gartner and Forrester, streamlined management, along with a partner-rather-than-vendor mentality and continual innovation have kept us coming back."

Nevertheless, the bank still did its due diligence for cloud security. "We issued an RFP and evaluated leading cloud security options, but McAfee was way ahead of the competition," says Picans. "Only McAfee allowed us to extend our existing on-premises policies into the cloud. Only McAfee provided CASB, DLP, and web protection integrated together. And only McAfee offered device-to-cloud management from a single console."

Consequently, Banco Delta migrated its on-premises McAfee ePolicy Orchestrator (McAfee ePO) software to McAfee MVISION ePO, the multitenant enterprise Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) version of McAfee ePO, and added to its arsenal the McAfee cloud access security broker (CASB), McAfee MVISION Cloud, and McAfee MVISION Endpoint Detection and Response (EDR).

With help from McAfee® Professional Services, the bank deployed all these solutions across its entire enterprise within just two weeks. "The expertise and experience of the McAfee Professional Services team was extremely valuable, and they transferred their knowledge to us very effectively," notes Picans, who has recommended them highly to his peers.

Challenges

- Migrate to the cloud securely to empower remote workforce
- Build a strong defense against ransomware and other sophisticated attacks
- Reduce management burden, especially given shortage of skilled security professionals
- Safeguard sensitive financial data and enforce stricter data usage policies
- Ensure compliance with industry and government regulations
- Build an adaptable security strategy for the future

CASE STUDY

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—Ariel Picans, Manager of Technology Risk, Banco Delta (Panama)

Shrinking Time to Remediation from Hours to Minutes and Weeks to a Day

By deploying McAfee MVISION EDR to every computer and server in the enterprise, Picans and the Banco Delta security team save a lot of time investigating incidents, thereby speeding up time to resolution. “With McAfee MVISION EDR, we investigate incidents, monitor them, and take appropriate action many times faster and with less effort than we ever could before,” affirms Picans. “In the past, we had to visit multiple consoles and websites and sort through logs to try to understand what exactly occurred and potential impact; now we can query and find the information we need in just a few clicks. The visualizations displaying key findings and AI-guided investigations are also extremely helpful.”

For instance, thanks to MVISION EDR, a Banco Delta security administrator was able to detect a dynamic-link library (DLL) incident within one to two minutes and fix it immediately. Without MVISION EDR, time to remediation would have been two to three hours. Another time, using MVISION EDR to investigate a more sophisticated

DLL attack led to the discovery of a compromised system, its clean-up, and full restoration all in a day. “Without MVISION EDR, finding and remediating the incident would have taken one to two weeks instead of just one day,” states Picans.

Superior Data Protection on Premises and in the Cloud

At Banco Delta, business department heads and IT meet every six months to review all the types of sensitive data and documents and update DLP policies as needed. To extend the bank’s already robust on-premises data loss protection (DLP) to the cloud, the Banco Delta security team pushed its existing classifications of sensitive data and DLP policies from its McAfee Network DLP appliances and McAfee DLP Endpoint to McAfee MVISION Cloud. “By adding McAfee MVISION Cloud to our McAfee integrated security ecosystem, we now have the same policies everywhere, whether on premises or in the cloud, behind the firewall or in someone’s home,” says Picans.

McAfee Solutions

- McAfee® Advanced Threat Defense (ATD)
- McAfee® Change Control
- McAfee® Cloud Workload Security
- McAfee® Datacenter Security Suite
- McAfee® DLP Discover
- McAfee® DLP Endpoint
- McAfee® DLP Monitor
- McAfee® DLP Prevent
- McAfee® Endpoint Security
- McAfee® Enterprise Security Manager
- McAfee® Management for Optimized Virtual Environments AntiVirus (McAfee MOVE AntiVirus)
- McAfee® MVISION™ Cloud for Azure
- McAfee® MVISION™ Cloud for Microsoft Exchange Online
- McAfee® MVISION™ ePolicy Orchestrator® (MVISION ePO™)
- McAfee® MVISION™ Endpoint Detection and Response (MVISION EDR)
- McAfee® Network Security Platform
- McAfee® Threat Intelligence Exchange (TIE)
- McAfee® Web Gateway
- McAfee® Web Gateway Cloud Service

CASE STUDY

“I know that, with McAfee, I can count on having the same level of security in the cloud and in virtualized environments as we have on premises.”

—Ariel Picans, Manager of Technology Risk, Banco Delta (Panama)

Management Burden Eased with All-in-One Console and Automation

As the centralized management hub for Banco Delta's McAfee solutions, the industry-acclaimed McAfee ePO console has been integral to the bank's security operations. The single pane of glass simplifies orchestration of multiple security products, streamlines and automates compliance processes, and provides a summary of security posture in one graphical view. Migrating to McAfee MVISION ePO enabled the bank's security team to gain critical visibility and automatically enforce policies not only across systems on-premises but also in the cloud.

Picans and his team use the MVISION ePO dashboard daily to manage their security posture. For instance, with so many employees working from home, the team queries new application installations on home devices daily—and blocks any that are unauthorized. Using the dashboard and built-in reports, they also consolidate useful information—such as malware by type, malware that has been blocked, and devices that are most vulnerable to an attack—and click to create insightful

reports for operations as well as the bank's board of directors. Since implementing McAfee MVISION EDR, the team also provides the Board monthly with an even more comprehensive view of Banco Delta's risk profile and performance metrics.

A More Efficient Security Ecosystem

Banco Delta has deployed a fully integrated McAfee security ecosystem with products for advanced endpoint, network, and web protection. These solutions share threat information bidirectionally via McAfee Threat Intelligence Exchange (TIE), which aggregates global and local threat information and conveys it throughout the enterprise using the Data Exchange Layer (DXL). Tight integration also enables automation of alerts, updates, and many other tasks. For instance, malware encountered on endpoints by McAfee Endpoint Security or McAfee Web Gateway provides critical insights that are immediately shared with the other solutions, generating alerts when necessary in McAfee MVISION ePO and the McAfee SIEM and informing McAfee MVISION EDR for faster threat hunting and remediation.

Results

- Fully integrated and orchestrated security infrastructure
- Faster migration to the cloud
- Stronger protection against ransomware and emerging threats
- Time to remediation cut from hours to minutes and weeks to a single day
- Visibility and control over confidential bank data
- Fully automated, unified policy enforcement from device to cloud
- Simplified and streamlined security management
- Detailed reporting to help identify and manage risks
- Significant reduction in user downtime and in disruption of business services
- Lower operational costs for security teams

CASE STUDY

Since deploying these integrated McAfee solutions, Picans has seen a significant reduction in attacks and data loss as well as notable operational efficiencies compared to a multivendor environment. “When you have a collection of unintegrated products with multiple management consoles, you need more people, and they need additional, highly specific training. McAfee has reduced the need for hiring additional personnel,” he affirms.

A Robust, Adaptable Foundation for the Future

Banco Delta continues to adapt and add to this integrated security ecosystem to meet changing needs. For instance, Picans and his team are currently implementing McAfee Web Gateway Cloud Service for hybrid web protection since so many of its employees now work outside the network perimeter.

In addition, as the bank expands cloud-based services and applications for both external clients and internal stakeholders, McAfee MVISION Unified Cloud Edge (UCE) is on their roadmap. “McAfee’s advancements in cloud security and other innovations speak for themselves,” says Picans. “They show that McAfee is genuinely concerned about protecting customers and staying current with new technology trends and the evolving threat landscape.”

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—Ariel Picans, Manager of
Technology Risk, Banco Delta
(Panama)



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