



Success Story

BWK uses PacketAlarm for network security

Capital investment specialist Baden-Württembergische Kapitalanlagegesellschaft mbH (BWK), based in Stuttgart, has invested in the network-based Intrusion Detection System "PacketAlarm" made by VarySys Technologies. BWK has thus taken steps to beat the growing threat of outside attacks from hackers, which are impossible to detect by firewalls and virus scanners.

BWK manages more than one hundred public and special funds, with a fund volume totaling more than 8.5 billion Euros. Permanent linkups with the world's leading stock exchanges via the internet and extranet has long been part of the everyday working scene for customers. Protecting the company's network against unauthorized access has top priority. "Security is a factor that we constantly monitor and enhance", was how Ms. Bayerle, Head of IT, summed up her approach. Attacks such as "Nimda" and "CodeRed" have both shown that to rely on firewalls and virus scanners alone simply isn't enough. Many attacks are spread over several data packets which enter the network one after the other. On their own, these packets look quite harmless, and so the firewall lets them through. It's only when they assemble together that they produce their harmful effect. "A firewall behaves like the security guard on our door", Ms. Bayerle explains. "He checks who enters the building, but he doesn't have an X-ray machine to inspect visitors' bags and pockets. What we are looking for is a solution that keeps a continuous watch on data traffic and which intervenes as soon as a risk occurs. So it mustn't impede the performance of the network. PacketAlarm meets our criteria precisely."

"PacketAlarm" comes supplied ready for operation. After the input of a small amount of data, the Intrusion Detection System (IDS) begins doing its job. The core of the whole system is formed by more than 3,000 attack patterns which are currently stored. "PacketAlarm" continuously examines data traffic and checks to see if there are any matches with these patterns. If one is detected, PacketAlarm intervenes immediately and prevents the attack. The automatic update function loads new signatures securely over the internet and installs them. "The perfect ser-

vice!" is Ms. Bayerle's positive conclusion. "This ensures that PacketAlarm is always up to date, without any need for any input from administration."

Über VarySys Technologies:

VarySys Technologies GmbH & Co. KG is headquartered in Germany and provides high quality network security products. With the product series PacketAlarm IDS, PacketAlarm IPS and PacketAlarm UTM, VarySys Technologies offers Intrusion Detection, Intrusion Prevention and Unified Threat Management. By using the PacketAlarm products, nearly all network attacks like DoS-attacks, exploits, worms, viruses, spam etc. are continually detected, reported and actively blocked before they can cause any damage. This significantly improves the security status of systems and networks. PacketAlarm products are easy and quick to install, and reports are created automatically and can be customized. PacketAlarm is available as an appliance and as software. An automatic, Internet-based pattern and software update feature ensures that PacketAlarm products are always up-to-date.

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