

CISCO INTRODUCES INDUSTRY'S FIRST INTEGRATED NEXT-GENERATION FIREWALL

KUWAIT: As global companies embrace new digital business opportunities, cybersecurity is regularly cited as a top concern impeding growth and innovation. To give businesses the confidence to pursue digital opportunities to enable growth, Cisco has made security a top priority and is today announcing innovations to its flagship Next-Generation Firewall. The goal: to deliver leading protection to keep organizations safer.

Cisco's first fully integrated, threat-focused Cisco Firepower(tm) Next-Generation Firewall (NGFW) marks a significant departure from the focus of legacy NGFWs on application control. By focusing instead on threat defense, Cisco will help organizations better manage and minimize risk. Think of it as legacy NGFWs protecting "homes" by securing windows and doors, whereas Cisco's approach is to identify, detect and protect against would-be burglars no matter how they try to gain access to a property.

Cisco is also introducing the Cisco Security Segmentation Service, an advisory service that helps organizations create security controls that enhance compliance, breach containment, threat detection, content security and data loss prevention across their IT infrastructure.

Both offerings are aimed at protecting against bold and resilient threats from increasingly sophisticated cyberattacks.

"Attackers are getting bolder and coordinating their efforts. The industrialization of hacking is putting Kuwait businesses on the defensive against a growing group of adversaries that steal information for profit. In the last three years, Cisco has spent billions in strategic cybersecurity acquisitions and internal innovations to help stay ahead of the world's most malicious attacks that threaten organizations. For businesses in Kuwait to get real value and manage risk as they implement digital operational models, their security platforms need to integrate into the business and support growth opportunities. This means taking a threat-centric approach, with protection from the mobile endpoint to the cloud," said Ziad Salameh,

Managing Director & General Manager Gulf, Levant & Pakistan and Middle East Services Leader, Cisco.

BETTER PROTECTION

"The Cisco Firepower NGFW acts as a unifying platform, integrating Cisco and third-party security solutions for increased correlation and context. The result is better protection, and faster detection and response to advanced threats. The Cisco Segmentation Service will help our Kuwait customers build a dynamic, resilient secure infrastructure to combat threats in real-time," concluded Ziad Salameh.

Firepower NGFW's Threat-Focused Capabilities Set It Apart Traditional NGFWs continue to focus on application enablement and control, which limit the ability to protect against the breadth of threats in today's business environment. Cisco's approach is different. Cisco empowers customers to easily manage and dynamically update protection from the endpoint to the network, and out to the cloud, by going beyond applications and identifying and stopping threats, both known and unknown.

Cisco's Firepower NGFW is the industry's first to link contextual information about how users are connecting to applications, with threat intelligence and policy enforcement. Gaining this level of visibility across a business environment accelerates threat detection and response, and enhances protection.

Cisco's NGFW can also automate and fine-tune security measures to rapidly harden defenses, based on its ability to see vulnerabilities, assets and threats. The consistent and pervasive advanced security capabilities provide protection that point solutions cannot deliver.



Ziad Salameh

Firepower NGFW Integrates Controls and Attack Detection and Response to Enable Business Growth

The new Cisco Firepower(tm) NGFW significantly improves the speed, simplicity and effectiveness of attack detection and response. It combines Cisco's stateful firewalling technology and industry-leading threat services in a single solution. The threat services take protection to a new level, beyond application visibility and control, and include Next-Generation Intrusion Prevention System, Advanced Malware Protection and reputation-based URL filtering.

STOP ADVANCED ATTACKS

Cisco's integrated NGFW incorporates Cisco and complementary third-party solutions and uniquely enables intelligence and context to be shared between solutions. Now businesses can effectively correlate previously disparate pieces of information to identify and stop advanced attacks more rapidly wherever they may be. This has competitive implications for organizations looking to deploy cloud, virtual environment, new Internet of Things (IoT) solutions and mobile endpoints to securely drive new business opportunities.

New Firepower Appliances Launched for High-Performance Applications

Cisco is releasing new Cisco Firepower 4100 Series appliances for high-performance applications within mid- to large-sized organizations. They are the highest performing, density-optimized appliances in their class, capable of high-throughput and low latency threat inspection, sufficient for high-frequency trading and data center deployments. They are among the first with 40GbE network connectivity in a compact, one rack-unit space.

Firepower Management Center Integrates Security Solutions in Single Nerve Center. The new Cisco Firepower Management Center serves as the nerve center for the Firepower NGFW, providing a rich, unified management console. It features shared intelligence, shared contextual awareness, and consistent policy enforcement for the

Cisco Firepower NGFW plus other Cisco security and network solutions. Complementary third-party solutions, beginning with Radware for Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS), also are integrated through the Cisco Firepower Management Center. The management center provides rich, comprehensive management, delivering information and insight in a single console. Other NGFWs often require users to switch between three or more consoles to gain the same detail.

Security Segmentation Service Customizes Design to Manage Risk

The Cisco Security Segmentation Service is an advisory service that designs a custom-tailored framework that reduces risk, simplifies audit profiles, secures data and helps businesses comply with board-level requirements.

Cisco Services has developed the Security Segmentation Service to help organizations create a strategic infrastructure segment strategy. Cisco's approach is customer-specific, extends beyond the network, and incorporates reusable design patterns to apply security controls across compliance, breach containment, threat detection, content security, data loss prevention, and other distinct security disciplines.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHANNEL PARTNERS

These new security offerings provide Cisco channel partners with an expanded end-to-end portfolio and represent additional profitability opportunities. When combined with Cisco's threat-centric security approach, channel partners are able to simplify and reduce costs of managing their customers' security environments through a unified management platform. They also can increase cross-sell opportunities enabled by strong network integration, and drive new revenue streams through new services and licensing options.

In addition, Cisco is investing in developing security practice acceleration programs, training and enablement for both products and services so channel partners can fuel growth and increase profitability.



Marissa Mayer

YAHOO LAUNCHES AUCTION PROCESS AS STARBOARD GEARS UP FOR FIGHT

NEW YORK: Yahoo Inc officially launched the sale of its core business on Friday, a move seen as a positive step for frustrated investors but not enough to keep an activist hedge fund from pursuing a proxy fight against the struggling Internet company.

Yahoo shares jumped after the company announced its board has formed a committee of independent directors to explore strategic alternatives, and that it has hired investment banks and a law firm to run the process.

The launch of the auction process, a move activist hedge fund Starboard Value and other shareholders have pushed since late last year, showed the company was moving another step closer to selling its core business, which includes search, mail and news sites, rather than spin it off as previously planned. The move follows more than three years of effort by CEO Marissa Mayer to turn around Yahoo by focusing on mobile apps and trying to boost advertising revenue. Yahoo had acknowledged during its earnings last month that

it was open to exploring options for its core business. Despite the launch, Starboard's founder Jeffrey Smith is not backing down, and will continue his pursuit of nominating a group of directors for the Yahoo board, people familiar with the matter said.

Smith stated in a letter to the board on Jan. 6 that if the board is unwilling to accept the need for significant change, "then an election contest may very well be needed so that shareholders can replace a majority of the Board with directors who will represent their best interests." Even though the board is showing that it's now willing to accept that need, Smith is still going to nominate a slate of directors to ensure that the sales process is handled properly, people familiar with the matter said.

The window for a shareholder to nominate a director or group of directors to the Yahoo board begins on Feb. 25 and ends on March 26, with the annual meeting expected to be held in May, according to the company's proxy statement. "It

seems pretty clear that the only reason this is happening even is because of the threat of the proxy fight," Pivotal Research analyst Brian Wieser said. Starboard, which owns about 0.75 percent of Yahoo, declined to comment.

Yahoo's attempt to sell its core business comes after shelving previous plans to spin off its stake in ecommerce giant Alibaba Group Holding Ltd.

"Separating our Alibaba stake from Yahoo's operating business is essential to maximizing value for our shareholders," Mayer said on Friday.

Yahoo's board is concerned about the risk of losing a possible proxy contest, investor Eric Jackson, of SpringOwl Asset Management, said.

Yahoo's committee of independent directors has engaged Goldman Sachs & Co Inc, J.P. Morgan and PJT Partners Inc as financial advisers, and Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP as legal adviser. Verizon Communications Inc is among the companies seen as a potential buyer of Yahoo's core business. — Reuters

KASPERSKY LAB NAMED LEADER IN GARTNER'S MAGIC QUADRANT FOR ENDPOINT PROTECTION

DUBAI: Kaspersky Lab announced that it has been positioned in the "Leaders" quadrant of the 2016 Gartner Magic Quadrant for Endpoint Protection Platforms. The evaluation was based on the criteria for both "completeness of vision" and "ability to execute". This is the fifth year in a row the company has received a leadership position from Gartner.

Kaspersky Lab's global brand recognition, growing market share, strong influence within the IT security industry, and recognition as a Leader by Gartner further positions the company as a top provider of best-in-class endpoint protection solutions. Kaspersky Lab's comprehensive portfolio encompasses solutions to protect a wide range of customers from all types of cyber threats, and the company scored more top-three places than any other vendor in independent testing throughout 2015. Powered by industry-leading threat intelligence, Kaspersky Lab is the security technology solutions choice for 400 million users and 270,000 corporate clients.

"We are pleased to remain a leader in the Gartner Magic Quadrant for the fifth time in a row. We will continue to deliver the industry's best multi-layered protection

by transforming our global cyber security intelligence into technologies that address a wide range of threats, including known, unknown and the most advanced ones," commented Nikita Shvetsov, Chief Technology Officer at Kaspersky Lab. "The wealth of expertise we have gained through years of combating major IT threats has allowed us to develop endpoint security solutions which unite ease of management with effective protection to meet our clients' most pressing needs."

A complimentary copy of the Gartner Magic Quadrant for Endpoint Protection Platforms, Peter Firstbrook, Eric Ouellet, 1 February 2016, is available here.

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Donald Trump

TRUMP CALLS FOR BOYCOTT UNTIL APPLE UNLOCKS SHOOTER'S PHONE

PAWLEYS ISLAND: Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump called on Friday for a boycott of Apple Inc products until the tech company agreed to help the US government unlock the cellphone of one of the killers in last year's San Bernardino, California, shooting.

"Boycott Apple until such time as they give that information," Trump said at a campaign event in Pawleys Island, South Carolina. "It just occurred to me."

Trump, front-runner for the Republican nomination ahead of the Nov. 8 presidential election, made the off-the-cuff comment at a town hall-style event at a country club, a day before the state's nominating contest.

Even as he was still speaking, Trump's campaign posted on his Twitter handle (@realDonaldTrump) from an iPhone, with the timestamp labeled "via Twitter for iPhone." Trump later posted on Twitter that he used both an iPhone and a Samsung device.

In response, senior Apple executives, on a call with reporters on Friday, said they felt they were in good company given the other groups and people Trump has criticized in the past. They defended encryption as a way to protect Apple customers' rights.

It was not the first attack on the world's best-known technology company by the real estate mogul and reality TV personality. Trump has previously been critical of Apple, which has its headquarters in Cupertino,

California, for not producing enough of its products in the United States.

"We're gonna get Apple to start building their damn computers and things in this country, instead of in other countries," Trump said in a January speech at Liberty University in Virginia.

Apple is resisting U.S. government demands that it unlock an iPhone used by Rizwan Farook, who along with his wife, Tashfeen Malik, shot and killed 14 people and wounded 22 others at a holiday party in San Bernardino last December.

Trump made his comments as the U.S. Department of Justice filed a motion seeking to force Apple to comply with a judge's order for the company to unlock the phone, portraying the tech company's refusal as a "marketing strategy."

The filing increased tension in a showdown between the Obama administration and Silicon Valley over security and privacy. The government has said the couple were sympathizers of Islamic State militants and wants to open the phone to find out more about possible connections and contacts.

"If Apple doesn't give the information to the authorities on the radical Islamic terrorists, I'll only be using a Samsung - until such time as they give the information," Trump tweeted.

"Hopefully others will follow suit. Our country needs and should demand security. It is time to get tough and be smart!" — Reuters

OOREDOO TO DEMONSTRATE 5G, VOICE OVER TECHNOLOGY AT MOBILE WORLD CONGRESS

KUWAIT: Ooredoo Group will demonstrate a range of innovative solutions and services at the upcoming Mobile World Congress, set to take place in Barcelona, Spain, next week.

The company will use its presence at the event to highlight the incredible progress it has made in updating and optimising networks in the Middle East, North Africa and Southeast Asia, as well the range of solutions that Ooredoo companies are delivering over these next-generation networks. Ooredoo Kuwait's delegation will be headed by General Manager and CEO Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Thani.

The theme of this year's GSMA Mobile World Congress is "Mobile is Everything," and Ooredoo has taken major strides in recent years in delivering a diverse portfolio of life-enriching digital services via mobile.

One of the main areas of focus on the Ooredoo stand will be a special demonstration of 5G technology, deploying Ooredoo networks to deliver faster, smoother mobile Internet than ever before. Ooredoo has a strategy in place to use 5G to offer significantly faster data speeds, ultra-low latency, and to enable a host of Internet of Things (IoT) solutions, by enabling more devices to connect to the network.

Sheikh Saud Bin Nasser Al Thani, Chief Executive Officer, Ooredoo Group, said: "Ooredoo has shown that faster networks deliver real economic and social benefits across our markets, giving people access to more information, education and transformative services."

NETWORK INNOVATION

Ooredoo aims to remain at the cutting-edge of



network innovation, which is why we are already taking key steps to be ready to introduce 5G network services as soon as customer demand and 5G-compatible handsets are available, and have already brought Voice over LTE to market."

In 2015, Ooredoo companies launched 4G+ services in Kuwait, the Maldives, and Indonesia, and set a new speed test record on LTE-Advanced (LTE-A) three-band carrier aggregation technology in Qatar, which launched 4G+ in 2014. The company is already in discussion with a number of technology leaders about beginning 5G trials in some of these key markets.

As well as 5G, Ooredoo is also set to showcase Voice over LTE (VoLTE) services during Mobile World Congress. In Qatar, Ooredoo has already become the first operator in the GCC region to successfully trial VoLTE across a substantial part of its nationwide network in a pre-commercial phase.

The service gives customers access to crystal clear HD voice calls and provides faster call setup. It also enables customers to switch between ongoing voice calls and high-quality video calls, and browse the Internet while still on a call.

Ooredoo will also demonstrate the incredible range of business services and machine-to-machine solutions currently being provided to small companies and massive enterprises across its footprint.

The company has developed strong expertise in "Smart City" and "Smart Stadium" solutions in recent years. This has been driven by major investment in key markets such as Qatar and Indonesia, where Ooredoo M2M solutions are supporting everything from traffic management services through to smart metering to manage energy use.