Fenerbahçe Sport Club Goes for the Win with ZTEdge Zero Trust Remote Access

Customer profile

Large multi-sport club and retailer, based in Istanbul, with over 1000 employees. Winners of numerous Turkish, European and world championship titles.

Industry

Sports and Retail

Challenges

- Enable remote users, including website admins, to securely access private apps and website admin portals

- Protect apps and data from unauthorized users and hackers with stolen credentials

- Restrict authorized users to permitted actions

- Provide comprehensive audit reports of activity for sensitive apps

Background

Fenerbahçe is one of the largest multi-sport clubs in Turkey. Based in Istanbul, the sports club has over 1000 employees and more than 300,000 members. Fenerbahçe departments include football, basketball, volleyball, swimming and a wide range of additional sports, and their teams have won numerous Turkish, European and world championship titles.

Fenerbahçe is a major retailer as well, selling licensed products via the Fenerium website and almost 100 stores.

Fenerbahçe depends on a combination of on-premise and hosted/SaaS applications to run their business, including systems and apps for website and ecommerce management.

The Challenge

Fenerbahçe was an early adopter of Zero Trust Network Access in a market where penetration is still relatively low, and remains the only sport club that has replaced VPNs with ZTNA. The solution that they initially implemented, however, was geared toward large enterprises. With time, it grew increasingly clear that a ZTNA solution designed for use by midsize organizations would better suit Fenerbahçe's needs.

Fenerbahçe was seeking an access solution that would enable remote users – both employees and contract workers – to securely access their hosted apps as well as apps and systems located on premises.

Particularly rigorous access restrictions were required to protect the company's public-facing websites. Due to the essential role of their SAP system, as well as its use of mission-critical data, Fenerbahçe needed reliable, granular access control and comprehensive records of all activity, from all locations, for auditing purposes.

Results

- Users authenticate to apps and website via Fenerbahçe network

- Website admin portal is dark to all other addresses

- Granular policy-based controls restrict user activity

- Built-in IAM solution enables application of granular policy-based controls

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"We keep a keen eye out for cost-effective Zero Trust secure access solutions that are right for our mid-sized customers. With its modular design, user-friendly admin portal, and sophisticated technology, ZTEdge is an ideal SASE platform for this segment."

Engin Özşahin,
Founder, Everhub

everhub

Solution

In consultation with Rhisos, an Istanbul-based IT and security technology distributor, Fenerbahçe investigated several ZTNA solutions and chose the Ericom Software ZTEdge platform based on its excellent performance, simplicity and affordable cost. As a flexible secure access service edge (SASE) platform designed specifically for midsize enterprises, ZTEdge makes it easy to enforce the strong security controls and protections Fenerbahçe required when enabling remote access to sensitive and essential resources. Everhub, a Rhisos partner, worked with Fenerbahçe to integrate ZTEdge with their network.

Remote users – both employees and contract workers -- authenticate to Fenerbahçe on-premises networks via the highly available global ZTEdge cloud infrastructure from any Windows or Apple device. To enable policy-based controls, ZTEdge includes a built-in identity and access management (IAM) solution. The solution's patent-pending ZTEdge Automatic Policy Builder simplifies creation and updating of granular policies that limit each user's access to only the resources they need. As an organization that employs a changing cast of contract workers, Fenerbahçe particularly values the simplicity with which policies can be updated via the user-friendly ZTEdge admin dashboard.

Fenerbahçe uses its on-premises ERP system to manage accounting, finance, sales and additional processes, making it an essential application that is especially sensitive. Using easy-to-set ZTEdge granular policy-based controls, Fenerbahçe admins restrict which users may access each module remotely and what actions each individual is permitted to execute.

Once users are logged in, granular policies restrict each individual's activity and movement to only what is necessary to accomplish their work. For extra protection, microsegmentation prevents authenticated users from moving laterally through on-premises networks and reduces attack surfaces by cloaking resources from view.

Fenerbahçe websites are managed via web-based admin portals. For greater control, both employees and contract workers with admin privileges may access the sites' admin portals only from the Fenerbahçe network's IP address. Thus, users connect to the company network with ZTNA, then log in to the portal via the network. Website admin pages are entirely blocked – even to authorized users – if an attempt is made to access them from any other IP address.

For rapid discovery and mitigation of possible threats, ZTEdge dashboards provide the Fenerbahçe security team with continuous, fine-grained visibility into user behavior and network traffic as well as scheduled and/or on-demand audit reports.

"In Turkey and worldwide, interest – and passions – run high when it comes to sports teams, especially football," said Emre Demirci, System and Network Administrator of Fenerbahce. "As the country's leading sports club, we need to be sure that access to our networks, apps and especially our websites are locked down, yet accessible to authorized users, wherever they're working. Ericom Software's ZTEdge platform provides simple, secure and reliable access that works for our organization."

Conclusion

While organizations worldwide require secure remote access to desktops and private and SaaS apps, international sports franchises like Fenerbahçe are particularly appealing targets for hackers, cybercriminals and overzealous fans. ZTEdge ZTNA provides powerful access controls that safeguard sensitive content and resources from cyberattack, without burdening users with cumbersome procedures.