



Company: Heritage Bank

Industry: Banking / Financial Services

Country / Region: Pacific Northwest

Website: www.heritagebankwaonline2.com/home/

Company Profile

Heritage Bank is a full-service community bank serving the Pacific Northwest through its 28 branches.

Business Situation

Serving thousands of customers in the Pacific Northwest, Heritage Bank needed to refresh its security to keep its networks protected against the ever-evolving threat environment, while maintaining robust network performance.

Solution

Unified Threat Management, XTM 1050s, XTM 810s

Benefits

- Multilayered, best-in-class security
- Seamlessly unified management
- Industry-leading performance and value
- Value-added services to customers/resellers

Heritage Bank Gets Strong Security at a Tremendous Value from WatchGuard

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Heidi Geathers, Vice President Technology
Heritage Bank

Background

Founded in 1927, Heritage Bank is a full-service community bank headquartered in Olympia, WA and serving the Pacific Northwest with 28 branches, and managing over \$1.6 billion in assets. A true community bank, Heritage seeks deposits from its communities and makes loans to customers who have ties to local markets. Heritage offers a comprehensive array of business and personal banking tools: checking; savings; commercial, home and construction loans; merchant services; remote deposit and online financial management tools through their website.

The Challenge

Heritage Bank has about 500 users spread throughout 40 locations and serves thousands of customers. Heidi Geathers, Vice President, Technology at Heritage Bank, has been managing IT for approximately 20 years, and has witnessed trends come and go. "Today, the key trends we're seeing are the use of cloud services, the use of consumer-based devices for work (BYOD), and the outsourcing of solutions, rather than having in-house IT staff," notes Geathers.

However, according to Geathers, end-user education is the biggest challenge confronting Heritage's IT staff. "Users today are bombarded with technology communications from social media, email, text, mobile devices—they often don't take the time to think before they react," declares Geathers. With the bank handling rich amounts of financial and personal data, robust, multilayered security is a must to ensure protection in the face of inherent vulnerabilities and multiple attack vectors.

Why WatchGuard: Multilayered Security, Scalability, & Value

"We've been a WatchGuard customer for about 8 years," states Geathers. "Prior to that, we were a Cisco shop. WatchGuard has built-in solutions that are not available from their competitors. The scalability of the XTM product line has made it our primary choice for years. We reap tremendous value by consolidating the UTM functions, such as web filtering, application control, and reporting."

While satisfied with WatchGuard, Heritage still wanted to take a look at several competitor solutions when recently looking to refresh its security. Ultimately, the security, scalability, performance, and value of WatchGuard's latest XTM solutions helped it handily win out over the competition. "Our reseller educated us on all of the choices, but let us decide what we felt

would be best for our company," says Geathers.

"The Cisco ASAs couldn't do what Heritage wanted and they were very expensive," tells Paul Graydon, VP, Strategic Accounts, of BlackPoint IT Services, the Seattle-based MSSP that helps Heritage with managing their firewall strategy and solutions. "You get better performance, security, and value with WatchGuard," assesses Graydon. "The WatchGuard XTM is such an easy-to-use and versatile UTM device. It just has so much under the security umbrella. With WatchGuard XTM, just one device will service 90% of what is needed by customers. That's a huge selling point."

Deploying WatchGuard

"The deployment of our newest WatchGuard XTM solutions has gone smoothly," says Geathers. Heritage deployed XTM 1050s at their corporate headquarters in Olympia for high availability, while using XTM 810s at the bank's major WAN sites.

"We're in the process of building our web filtering policies so we can eventually utilize the powerful capabilities that WatchGuard has implemented in the newer XTM line," tells Geathers. "We block certain categories that are not business-oriented. However, some business sites we need access to fall within those blocked categories. The WatchGuard web filtering solution has the flexibility

to allow those sites as an exception to our rule. Limiting web access increases productivity and reduces some risk the web poses in regards to fraud or hacking."

As part of the UTM suite, Heritage Bank also leverages WatchGuard Application Control. "We want to continue to improve management of web access controls by restricting parts of social media sites," explains Geathers. Increasingly a "must have" technology, WatchGuard Application Control provides the ability to see and control over 1800 applications.

