

**M**alayala Manorama was established in 1888, and has become one of the leading newspapers in Malayalam today. The company publishes many well-regarded periodicals such as The Week, Vanitha, Vanitha Hindi, Magic Pot, English Year Book, Amarchitrakatha, and Balarama among others. Malayala Manorama has 75 offices and 15 printing locations across India.

**Network up, even at odd hours**

Malayala Manorama gets news, photos, advertisements from all over the country and the world. Previously, the mode of collection was very manual and a lot of work went into converting material into digital format. Currently, the Internet is used as the primary medium for collecting and publishing news stories and getting advertisement revenue. The company thus needed the flexibility to stay connected to the Internet all the time.

According to V V Jacob, Manager-Systems, the networks have to be continuously running at all hours. The situation can get critical, especially when the newspaper goes for printing, and when no support can be expected from vendors. Downtime would severely impact the operations and revenues of the company.

**Fortifying the outer layer**

To deal with the risks of an “always-on” connection to the Internet, Malayala Manorama decided to put in place a security infrastructure that could effectively protect their data assets. The company evaluated products from many vendors and eventually selected Fortinet. What tipped the decision in Fortinet’s favor were the integrated security functions, such as antivirus and firewall, and the ability of Fortinet’s FortiGate products to operate in transparent mode.

The company decided to deploy the FortiGate units at the outermost perimeter, and just in front of the mail server to screen incoming mail for viruses before they have had a chance to break into the network.

# SECURITY AT MALAYALA MANORAMA

The media house uses Fortinet boxes and three other layers of solutions to repel intruders and to stay virus-free



In all, two FG-200s, one FG-400 and one FG-500 are deployed in three locations, including their main uplink facility. All units have real-time antivirus, firewall, VPN, network intrusion detection and prevention, and traffic-shaping services turned on. Supporting this infrastructure is FortiAnalyzer which provides reporting functions. The security infrastructure has been operating successfully for a little over 2 years now.

The deployment was done by the company’s IT team and it went very smoothly, without any issues or downtime during the installation.

**Impressive scalability**

Jacob says that the number of virus attacks has dropped dramatically, and is very infrequent now. The

number of intrusions has also come down considerably. Fortinet boxes have been able to deliver the bandwidth QoS required, and network performance has also improved because of the improved security. Malayala Manorama was so impressed with the FortiGate products that it is now in the process of evaluating Fortinet’s spam control software.

Explains Jacob, “Most security products operate on a per-user basis. In the case of Fortinet, the product secures the whole network. It requires only a one-time investment and has no license restriction on the number of users.”

All Fortinet products deployed by Malayala Manorama are automatically updated through FortiGuard, a subscription-based service



**RESULTS**

- ◆ Zero downtime during installation
- ◆ Dramatically reduced number of virus outbreaks and intrusions
- ◆ Improvement in network performance
- ◆ No per-user licensing, so the solution is quite a flexible