

Ministério Publico do Estado da Bahia Brazilian State Government Agency Transforms Device Compliance and Increases Efficiency with Forescout

100%

antivirus compliance

\$500,000+

saved over three years from efficiency gains

40 HOURS

saved weekly from automated compliance tasks



Industry

Government

Environment

3,650+ wired and wireless devices across 70+ offices; 3,400+ employees

Challenge

- Lack of visibility into all devices on the network
- Continually in reactive versus proactive mode concerning cyberthreats
- No way to block noncompliant or rogue devices from accessing the network

Security Solution

- Forescout platform
- Forescout eyeExtend Connect (formerly Open Integration Module)

Overview

The Ministério Publico do Estado da Bahia (MPBA) is responsible for the defense of legal order, the democratic regime and social and individual interests in the State of Bahia, a Brazilian state with more than 13 million citizens. The MPBA includes the state's Attorney General's office plus 70 other offices across the state. By implementing the Forescout platform, the organization improved its security posture dramatically. Their first step was to overhaul device compliance. Today, with much less time and effort, 100% of the MPBA's devices have up-to-date, properly operating antimalware protection. Three-year ROI savings are estimated to be more than \$500,000 USD from efficiency and productivity gains.

Business Challenge

"We were almost completely reactive. We needed a way to see problems on the endpoint, register them, mitigate them, and prevent them from happening again." — Iaçanã Carneiro, Information Security Officer, Ministério Publico do Estado da Bahia

Whenever the MPBA experienced a security incident, the organization's small information security team struggled to determine which endpoints had been affected, and what steps to take to remediate. Lack of visibility bogged down the IS team as well as impacted business users. They needed a way to view the status of all endpoints in real time to identify issues, respond faster to incidents and be more proactive in preventing future unwanted security events. Device compliance and network access control (NAC) were also serious concerns. For instance, they had no way to know for certain if all endpoints were running the most current version of an antivirus agent or had proper Windows configurations. They also lacked the ability to block noncompliant or rogue devices from accessing the network.

Use Cases

- Device visibility
- Network access control
- Device compliance

Results

- Rapid time to value—full visibility within three days thanks to agentless approach and easy deployment
- 40 hours saved weekly from automated antivirus compliance checks and remediation
- Significant ROI—\$500,000+ USD over three years—from IT staff efficiency and business productivity gains
- Dramatically improved security posture due to more proactive cyber defense
- Foundation laid for future integrations to enhance existing security investments and for robust network access control

"Forescout has given us the ability to view and enforce compliance across our entire network and to orchestrate responses by integrating with our existing security solutions."

— Yuri Araujo, IT Director, Ministério Publico do Estado da Bahia

Why Forescout?

MPBA Information Security Officer Iaçanã Carneiro and his team began searching for a device visibility and control solution. They evaluated leading NAC solutions and conducted several Proof-of-Concepts (POCs), but each of these products required installing an agent on every endpoint. "For performance and operational reasons, we preferred to stay away from agents, so when we discovered Forescout and its agentless approach, we were definitely interested," recalls Carneiro. "When we conducted a POC of the Forescout platform and saw how quickly it provided full visibility and how it allowed us to automate compliance and remediation activities and access policies, we knew we had found the solution to our visibility and NAC problems."

Consequently, the MPBA had XSITE, Forescout's first certified partner in Latin America, implement the Forescout platform. (XSITE was also Forescout's Brazilian Partner of the Year in 2018 and 2019.)

Business Impact

Fast, Comprehensive Visibility that Empowers More Proactive Defense

Within three days of implementing the Forescout platform, the MPBA had the comprehensive visibility that it needed to protect the organization more proactively. For instance, from the Forescout dashboard, the IS team found systems with broken, missing or out-of-date antivirus agents and Windows machines missing patches or major updates. They also identified all the users who were authenticated on several terminals simultaneously and all machines that were vulnerable to specific new threats. "Being able to quickly and easily find and address these vulnerability issues before a hacker can take advantage of them is just one of the ways we have become more proactive," says Carneiro.

Dramatically Improved Cyber Hygiene with 100% Antivirus Compliance

With the Forescout platform, MPBA has much greater control over the hygiene and overall security posture of its 3,650+ managed devices. Using Forescout eyeExtend Connect, the MPBA IS team integrated the Forescout platform with the organization's McAfee antivirus software. By doing so, they were able to automate tasks related to ensuring antivirus compliance. "Today, we have no machine without a fully functioning antivirus agent," says Carneiro. "When Forescout detects a machine with an antivirus issue, it automatically attempts to remediate and fix the problem. If, for some reason, that doesn't work, the solution alerts us."

Extending Benefits Further in the Future

The MPBA IS team also plans to leverage the Forescout solution's orchestration capabilities to further enhance the value of existing security investments, such as its Fortinet next-generation firewall. And although the Forescout platform currently assesses devices post-connection to the network, the MPBA fully intends to use it for pre-connect control as well—for instance, to block all noncompliant and specific peripheral devices from network access. "Although we have multiple security tools in our environment, the Forescout platform has become one of our most important tools for endpoint management," claims Carneiro, who strongly advises his peers to conduct a POC to see for themselves. "We have only begun to tap its potential."

"Today we only have to check the very few cases in which Forescout informs us a problem persists. The value from time savings and a more proactive security stance is immense."

— laçana Carneiro, Information Security Officer, Ministério Publico do Estado da Bahia

Measuring Business Value

Thanks to the automation and reduction in time spent remediating incidents enabled by implementing the Forescout platform, the MPBA IS team already saves 40 hours a week. They also increased the accuracy of their homegrown asset inventory tool as well as made it faster and easier to physically locate devices for customer service and identify devices using the organization's public Wi-Fi network. Using an ROI tool developed by IDC to quantify the economic value of using the Forescout platform, Carneiro calculated savings of \$500,000 USD over three years, primarily from IT staff efficiencies and business productivity gains. "Today we only have to check the very few cases in which Forescout informs us a problem persists," notes Carneiro. "The value from time savings and a more proactive security stance is immense."



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