

REA Group Takes a Cloud-First Approach to Enable the Business and Foster Collaboration



REA Group

Customer Profile

Headquartered in Melbourne, Australia, The REA Group operates the country's leading residential, commercial, and share property websites. The digital media company has real estate sites and investments in Australia, Asia, and North America. In Australia, they own the market-leading site, realestate.com.au, and its mobile apps.

Industry

Media

REA Group is a multinational digital advertising company that specializes in real estate and operates Australia's leading residential and commercial property websites, as well as sites in Europe, Asia, and North America. As a rapidly expanding global business with increasing cross-country collaboration, REA Group saw the need to review its software security practices.

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CASE STUDY

Choosing a CASB for Cloud Governance and Adoption

As a cloud-first organization with 90% of its systems being SaaS-based, the IT team at REA Group developed two parallel roadmaps for their technology and security teams that suited REA Group's open technology culture and met the four pillars of its technology strategy: discovery, reporting, risk assessment, and policy control.

"We are a company that is growing quickly, and we need to ensure the systems we have in place are best equipped to deal with that growth," says Damian Fasciani, senior manager of enterprise technology. "We knew that we would have to take a closer look at how the environment is evolving and the systems in use."

In an effort to maintain an open digital environment and meet the first pillar of REA Group's overall strategy, Fasciani and his team started to evaluate their options for cloud governance. "The concept of us discovering and monitoring the environment was of great value, so we went on a journey to find a CASB product," explains Fasciani, "We did our due diligence and evaluated a whole bunch of products, including McAfee® MVISION Cloud."

Fasciani and his team settled on MVISION Cloud because of its painless setup. "The view we had is that, while some other vendors might have a lot of bells

and whistles, they came with a lot of complexities and limitations," says Fasciani. "With McAfee, it was very straightforward, and we were very confident in the offering. We got results and reporting very quickly. The proof was in the pudding."

Fasciani and his team deployed MVISION Cloud into REA Group's ecosystem and immediately saw value in their increased visibility into all cloud services in use and their risk, as well as the ability to enforce compliance and governance policies. They can now securely enable cloud services that drive productivity and further enhance their existing cloud adoption strategy across the organization, including which cloud services to standardize on.

"We were certain that we didn't want to lock things down too much, but, at the same time, we did need to be able to discover and monitor what is going on in the environment," says Fasciani.

REA Group assesses each cloud services' risk using McAfee MVISION Cloud Trust Ratings (which provide a 1 to 10 risk rating based on 50 security attributes) and block high-risk sites and services that host malware and pirated content while coaching employees to secure cloud services. This has drastically reduced the time it takes them to assess the security of cloud services, and accelerate cloud adoption.

Challenges

- Desired the ability to discover and monitor cloud usage in an open cloud environment and block high-risk sites and services
- Securely roll out sanctioned collaboration tools like Box to a global workforce
- Deliver on security roadmaps while meeting the four pillars of REA Group's technology strategy

Solution

- McAfee MVISION Cloud for Box
- McAfee MVISION Cloud for Shadow IT

CASE STUDY

“We have sanctioned systems, and we have the systems people are using that aren’t sanctioned by IT, and that is okay because we didn’t want to go the old way of IT and tell people that you must use this and you can’t use that,” says Fasciani. “We aren’t the only ones that can come up with good ideas and technologies.”

“MVISION Cloud complements our technology adoption across the organization,” explains Fasciani. “Our adoption strategy is centered around it.”

• TOTAL USERS

Find User / IP Address

SERVICE NAME	CATEGORY	RISK	ACCESS COUNT	↑ OUTBOUND	↓ INBOUND	UPLOAD COUNT	UPLOAD DATA	USERS	ALLOWED DENIED	ACT#
Cisco WebEx Meeting Center	Collaboration	6	936.7 K	51.3 GB	51.3 GB	923,629	51.3 GB	10,269	80% 20%	
Limelight video platform	Social Media	5	936.7 K	34.5 GB	34.5 GB	663,133	34.5 GB	10,269	<1% 20%	
Spotify	Cloud Storage	7	936.7 K	16.4 GB	16.4 GB	427,132	16.4 GB	10,269	100% 0%	
Cisco WebEx Meeting Center	Collaboration	6		15.2 GB	15.2 GB	719,280	15.2 GB	10,269	80% 20%	
Limelight video platform	Social Media	5		7.2 GB	7.2 GB	281,887	7.2 GB	10,269	<1% 20%	
Spotify	Cloud Storage	7	936.7 K	51.3 GB	51.3 GB	923,629	51.3 GB	10,269	100% 0%	
Cisco WebEx Meeting Center	Collaboration	6		34.5 GB	34.5 GB	663,133	34.5 GB	10,269	80% 20%	
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Figure 1. McAfee MVISION Cloud Trust Ratings provide risk ratings for sites and services.

Advancing the Security Roadmap with MVISION Cloud for Box

With an open technology culture at the heart of REA Group, secure collaboration is a must. “We are very conscious of confidential information being leaked out of our ecosystem,” says Fasciani.

With a Box deployment already on the security roadmap, it made sense to deploy Box to users with an additional layer of protection for their data that includes contextual access controls, data-sharing policy enforcement, seamless integration with other cloud services, like Okta, for identity management, and the ability to easily extend existing data loss prevention policies (DLP) to Box.

Fasciani and his team used MVISION Cloud’s threat protection capabilities and user and entity behavior analytics (UEBA) to better understand how REA Group’s users were leveraging cloud services. In utilizing the solution’s machine-learning algorithm, which is based on user behavior over time, Fasciani was able to analyze users’ behavior within Box and implement access control policies accordingly.

“MVISION Cloud helps us deliver on items that were on our roadmap,” says Fasciani. “We have the reporting tools we need, and we are in the process of figuring out the policies we are going to implement.”

Results

- Securely deployed Box as the global collaboration tool, extending existing DLP and sharing policies as well as applying contextual access controls based on user behavior, securing confidential data
- Increased visibility allows for the enforcement of compliance and governance policies, as well as the overall reduction in corporate risk by using just-in-time coaching methods to steer users away from high-risk services to lower-risk sanctioned cloud services, further enabling open cloud environments
- Drastically reduced the time required to evaluate cloud services by leveraging McAfee MVISION Cloud Trust Ratings, accelerating overall cloud adoption

CASE STUDY

One Hundred Percent Cloud Adoption by 2017

In the next 12 months, REA Group is aiming to operate in a 100% cloud based environment. “We have worked hard to be cloud first,” says Fasciani. “We have built out a hybrid cloud, and our data center only has 90 virtual machines left. We want to be out of our data centers by June next year.”

As such, cloud governance is going to be critical as they continue to leverage more technologies to enable their global workforce. “We are very serious about utilizing the cloud. Our digital environment is evolving all the time,” says Fasciani.

“MVISION Cloud is going to be critical to our strategy moving forward and we want to make sure that we know how it is going to deliver not only over the next 12 months, but the next two to three years.”

“McAfee MVISION Cloud complements our technology adoption across the organization. Our adoption strategy is centered around it.”

—Damian Fasciani, Senior Manager, Enterprise Technology Chief Information Officer



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