

Brazilian Multinational Manufacturer Protects Data on the Internet and in the Cloud

Hybrid McAfee® web protection and McAfee® MVISION Cloud solution secures internet access and facilitates cloud adoption



WEG Industries

Customer Profile

Brazilian-based global manufacturer of electric energy, power, and automation products and services, as well as solutions in a host of other industries

Industry

Manufacturing

IT Environment

19,000 users across more than 135 countries, manufacturing plants in 12 countries

Headquartered in Jaraguá do Sul, Brazil, WEG Industries develops and manufactures electric motors, generators, transformers, and other products for energy production, as well as equipment for agriculture, mining, steel, pulp and paper, water, oil and gas, ethanol, and other industries. Protecting intellectual property and other sensitive data is a top priority for WEG's cybersecurity team, especially given the company's recent rapid growth by acquisition.

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CASE STUDY

For improved security posture, as well as strategic business reasons, the company turned to McAfee to beef up web protection and empower its users to leverage Security-as-a-Service (SaaS) applications, such as Microsoft Office 365.

Agility and Security for Transition to the Cloud

WEG Industries' chief information security officer, Pierre Pereira Rodrigues manages a team of five that oversees cybersecurity, as well as governance, risk, and compliance (GRC), across the extended enterprise, which includes manufacturing plants in 12 countries.

"Today our three biggest cybersecurity concerns are providing secure internet access for users, no matter where they are, empowering the company's businesses to securely use the cloud and safeguarding [intellectual property] IP and other sensitive data," notes Rodrigues. "The fact that our business is changing rapidly—we recently acquired three software companies and established a new digital business unit—compounds these challenges. Information security has to be extremely agile to keep up."

Rodrigues continues: "For instance, our business users have been pushing for greater cloud adoption. Rather than wearing the 'No, you can't' cybersecurity hat, we strive to say, 'Let's figure out how you can.' So we need technology that lets our business be innovative and forward-thinking but doesn't sacrifice security."

The Best Strategic and Business Option for the Long Term

To maintain the same high level of security no matter where WEG Industries' users are, whether they are trying to access the internet or using a cloud app such as Office 365, Rodrigues and his team began looking for web gateway and cloud access security broker (CASB) solutions. After evaluating the leading vendors for each type of solution, they decided to go with McAfee for both. Prior to these purchases, the company did not have any McAfee footprint.

"McAfee made the most sense strategically, as well as from a business value standpoint," claims Rodrigues. "Going with McAfee addresses our current data protection and cloud adoption pain points and sets the stage for us to reap future time savings and cost reductions from greater integration of security systems and improved aggregation and sharing of threat-related information. McAfee is also a leader in cybersecurity, with a broad range of technologies that we need now or are on our roadmap. We weren't just buying a web gateway or CASB solution, we were choosing a partner that can help us keep our business safe now and in the future."

Challenges

- Secure access to the internet for all employees worldwide, no matter where they are
- Facilitate cloud adoption for the company's businesses while safeguarding against data leakage
- Protect intellectual property and other sensitive information

McAfee Solution

- McAfee® Client Proxy
- McAfee® MVISION Cloud for Office 365
- McAfee® Web Gateway
- McAfee® Web Gateway Cloud Service

CASE STUDY

Policing Web Traffic to Keep Malware Out and Data In

WEG Industries deployed a hybrid web protection solution that combines powerful local intent analysis with anywhere-anytime, cloud-based protection: McAfee Web Gateway appliances on premises in the company's 46 branch offices and McAfee Web Gateway Cloud Service for its users at home or on the road. With McAfee web protection, the company can enforce its corporate internet use policies as its 19,000 end users access the internet, no matter where they are located. For users outside branch offices, the McAfee Client Proxy dynamically redirects them to the appropriate web gateway based on the host machine's location.

"Since 80% of WEG Industries' web traffic is secure sockets layer (SSL)-encrypted, being able to inspect SSL traffic is crucial. Our previous web gateway solution did not offer SSL inspection, gateway anti-malware, app control, or the ability to categorize internet traffic, but the McAfee solution gives us all these capabilities, which dramatically improves our web security and overall security posture," states Rodrigues. "There's a reason McAfee Web Gateway is rated so highly in industry reports."

Securing Office 365 and Facilitating Cloud Adoption

"At WEG, our businesses are pressing for cloud services, and every new project proposal presents a cloud option first," notes Rodrigues. "The cloud presents significant new security risks, however, so we are taking a slow but steady approach as we undergo our cloud transformation. Keeping data protection controls at the same high level as on premises is our goal. Implementing the McAfee CASB will help allow us to do that, and, in the process, pave the way for easier acceptance and implementation of SaaS services in the future."

As WEG Industries rolls out McAfee MVISION Cloud for Office 365, the company's first use case is access control to protect corporate data from unauthorized access. The McAfee CASB grants access to Office 365 only to authorized users with specified user attributes and authorized geographic locations. Rodrigues notes that WEG plans to implement the other main use cases for MVISION Cloud for Office 365 as well, including data loss prevention, collaboration control, activity monitoring, and user behavior analysis and malware detection.

Integration of McAfee MVISION Cloud for Office 365 with McAfee Web Gateway is also on WEG Industries' near-term roadmap. The integration of these solutions, combined with the McAfee® ePolicy Orchestrator® (McAfee® ePO™) management console, will pave the way for easier compliance with the LGPD Brazilian privacy regulation and other regulations. Integration of the McAfee CASB with data loss prevention (DLP) and mobility device management (MDM) tools will also follow.

Results

- Robust protection for inbound and outbound web traffic, including inspection of SSL-encrypted traffic
- Enforcement of corporate internet access policies outside the firewall
- Access control to prevent unauthorized access to corporate data in Office 365
- Groundwork laid for easier adoption of SaaS applications in the future
- Foundation for unified device-to-cloud security and bidirectional sharing of threat information across systems

CASE STUDY

Providing a Foundation for Device-to-Cloud, Integrated Threat Defense

From the start, WEG Industries has viewed its purchase of McAfee web protection and McAfee MVISION Cloud as an initial foundation that it will build on to leverage the McAfee integrated security platform.

“McAfee Web Gateway and the McAfee CASB provide great benefits as stand-alone solutions, but their potential impact can be magnified many times by expanding our McAfee footprint and leveraging the McAfee integrated security platform,” explains Rodrigues. “That’s why next on our roadmap is deployment of McAfee® Threat Intelligence Exchange for bidirectional exchange of local and global threat reputation information and McAfee® Advanced Threat Defense for dynamic and static sandboxing. These products and their integration with our existing McAfee protection will add significant value and fortify our security posture even more.”

He points out that, in most cases, adding more technologies and tools to one’s infrastructure increases the burden on security administration, boosts overall complexity, and negatively impacts business. However, McAfee is distinctly different.

“By integrating technologies and aggregating threat intelligence, the McAfee security platform, on the other hand, reduces the administrative burden and cost, minimizes risk, and builds in agility to meet the demands of the future. This approach is completely aligned with our strategic mission,” concludes CISO Rodrigues.

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—Pierre Pereira Rodrigues,
Chief Information Security
Officer, WEG Industries



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