

Partners for the Long Haul: Kleberg Bank Relies on Intel Security for Comprehensive Protection



Kleberg Bank

Customer profile

Regional bank in Southern Texas.

Industry

Financial services.

IT environment

220 endpoints.

Challenges

Shield network from ever-evolving malware threats and support ongoing compliance.

McAfee solution

- McAfee Complete Endpoint Protection—Business.
- McAfee Complete Data Protection.
- McAfee VirusScan Enterprise software.
- McAfee ePolicy Orchestrator software.
- McAfee Host Intrusion Prevention System for Desktops.
- McAfee Integrity Control.
- McAfee Web Protection Suite.
- McAfee Data Loss Prevention.
- McAfee MOVE AntiVirus.
- McAfee Global Threat Intelligence.

Kleberg Bank, N.A. is an independent community bank serving the South Texas cities of Kingsville and Corpus Christi and the surrounding region. Founded in 1905, the bank has built a solid reputation for providing quality financial services to consumers and small business customers. With over 30,000 accounts, Kleberg Bank operates 12 banking centers and has more than 200 employees.

A Security-Driven Business

Christopher Medrano, the CIO of Kleberg Bank, wears many hats as the head of a small IT organization. In addition to enterprise projects, he manages network and data security including endpoint protection and data loss prevention.

“As an IT team, our mission is to move the bank forward and help it provide maximum value and excellent service,” he explains. “Of course, keeping our critical infrastructure safe from cyberattacks is directly related to that goal.”

In the highly regulated financial industry, compliance with both internal policies and external regulations is another important security goal. “Seemingly every day, new banking regulations are released. The better equipped we are to demonstrate our compliance through effective security tools, the more efficiently we can respond during audits,” Medrano notes.

Integrated Protection Through Intel Security Connected

Since 2002, McAfee® security solutions, part of the Intel® Security product offering, have been an important part of the Kleberg Bank IT strategy—beginning with endpoint protection and an earlier version of the McAfee ePolicy Orchestrator® (McAfee ePO™) software.

Today, McAfee ePO software provides the centralized monitoring and management console for a large ecosystem of Intel Security solutions that stand guard over the Kleberg Bank IT environment. For endpoint users, the bank has adopted the McAfee Complete Endpoint Protection—Enterprise suite, including McAfee VirusScan® Enterprise software, McAfee Application Control, McAfee Host Intrusion Prevention and Enterprise Firewall, and McAfee Global Threat Intelligence. McAfee Endpoint Encryption prevents unauthorized users from gaining access to sensitive information, and McAfee Web Protection guards against web-vector threats.

In addition, Kleberg Bank has recently adopted McAfee Management for Optimized Virtual Environments AntiVirus (McAfee MOVE AntiVirus) to provide advanced protection for its increasingly virtualized infrastructure. McAfee Data Loss Prevention and Drive Encryption offer critical safeguards for the bank's sensitive employee and customer information.

“As McAfee ePO software has evolved and become a true enterprise-class solution, it's made sense to bring all of our security systems in under the McAfee ePO umbrella,” Medrano says. “Compared to any other vendors we've looked at, Intel Security offers the highest quality and best integration at a significantly lower cost.”

McAfee ePO Software: World-Class Security Management and Reporting

McAfee ePO Software is the nerve center of the Kleberg Bank security environment, giving the IT team a central console and 'single pane of glass' to manage and maintain every remote node on the network. McAfee ePO software delivers both operational and time savings by

Results

- Provides efficiencies and cost savings through single management console.
- Protects virtual machines without affecting their performance.
- Streamlines compliance through centralized reporting.

automating tasks such as bringing new systems online with full McAfee protection and pushing antivirus definition updates to existing systems.

“When we add a new system to our network, we deploy a McAfee agent that automatically checks the system into McAfee ePO software. Then McAfee ePO installs the necessary McAfee software in the correct order, based on the type of system, how it will be used, and the policies that affect that job function,” Medrano relates. “In combination with system imaging, we can go from bare metal to a fully compliant machine in about an hour. Our techs easily save hours by not having to manually install security software for every new machine that’s deployed.”

McAfee ePO software’s reporting capabilities play a critical role in Kleberg Bank’s compliance and overall security posture. Every day, McAfee ePO software sends Medrano a report of all security activities in the environment including virus scans, malware detections and mitigation, and machines that are out of compliance. “The compliance auditors are extremely impressed with the level of detail we’re able to provide, thanks to McAfee ePO software reporting,” Medrano says.

Comprehensive Endpoint Protection

Since Kleberg Bank’s endpoints have been protected by McAfee products for over a decade, Medrano is in an enviable position among his CIO peers. “Thanks to Intel Security, our detection rates were already really low. But now, with the combination of McAfee VirusScan Enterprise, McAfee Global Threat Intelligence, and McAfee Host Intrusion Prevention System, incidents of malware trying to invade our network are virtually non-existent,” he says.

Drive Encryption now provides full disk encryption for 160 Kleberg Bank laptops, PCs, and mobile devices, as well as an extra layer of encryption for particularly sensitive files and folders. “Drive Encryption is a well-rounded software component in the McAfee Endpoint Protection Suite that is far superior to previous solutions we’ve used,” Medrano says. “Not only does it offer highly effective protection, but it’s easier to support and easier to recover users’ information if necessary.”

The bank’s sensitive information is further protected by McAfee Data Loss Prevention, which logs and controls every incidence of data downloads to external devices such as USB drives, hard drives, or CD burners. Soon, Kleberg Bank will move the solution to the next level with McAfee Host Data Loss Prevention, which will operate on the network side to control and manage how the data is being shared between hosts, servers, and outside addresses.

Full Protection for Virtual Machines

With 14 hypervisors and more than 100 virtual machines (VMs) spread across three data centers, Kleberg Bank is well on its way to become a 100% virtualized IT environment. Operating in agentless mode, McAfee MOVE AntiVirus extends comprehensive antivirus protection to the bank’s VMware vShield virtual environment without burdening each VM with a local scan engine. “With a multivendor virtual antivirus platform, protection only begins after the system has booted. But with McAfee MOVE AntiVirus agentless, our VMs are continuously protected from advanced threats without any impact on system performance,” Medrano explains.

Locking Out Unwanted Web Intruders

With McAfee Web Protection, Kleberg Bank is able to maintain tight control over its users’ web access, not only to protect the network from inbound web threats but also to enforce company policies for website and application use. Via explicit proxies and multilevel URL filtering, the bank is able to specify employees’ web access based on their roles.

“As a bank, we are very risk-averse and conservative. Therefore, we have a very low tolerance level for employee Internet activity that is not directly related to the business,” Medrano states. With McAfee Web Protection, we’re able to lock down web usage as tightly as necessary to secure our network, while still giving employees the access they need to do their jobs.”

“In our small IT organization, we have many other responsibilities besides security. By standardizing on McAfee product solutions, we’ve freed up our time to work on enterprise projects that will help the bank provide optimal service and differentiate itself in a competitive market.”

—Christopher Medrano, CIO, Kleberg Bank

Whitelisted Protection for ATMs

Protecting its 15 ATMs from potential malware invasions is a critical concern for Kleberg Bank, not only to safeguard customers but also for PCI compliance. Kleberg needed a security solution tailor-made for the very specific hardware and software configurations of ATMs. At the same time, the bank wanted to prevent false positives from shutting down the machines and interfering with customer transactions.

McAfee Integrity Control for fixed-function devices such as ATMs uses application whitelisting to ensure that only authorized applications are allowed to run on each machine. “Even if malware somehow got into the system undetected by our other security controls, McAfee Integrity Control would prevent it from launching in the first place,” says Medrano. “With Integrity Control, we’re able to protect our machines and our customers’ info and maintain compliance without having to risk false positives.”

A Valued Partnership

“Throughout our Intel Security partnership, we’ve always appreciated how fast and easy it is to ramp up our protection, and with McAfee ePO software, that’s especially the case today,” Medrano remarks. “There really is no other comparable vendor solution out there for remote management.”

He adds, “In our small IT organization, we have many other responsibilities besides security. By standardizing on McAfee product solutions, we’ve freed up our time to work on enterprise projects that will help the bank provide optimal service and differentiate itself in a competitive market.”

