

Top Health Insurance Provider Boosts Cyber Resilience With Illumio

Zero Trust Segmentation provides an additional layer of protection for the insurer's critical systems and proves vital for meeting regulatory and compliance requirements

Business Goals

Health insurance providers have high-value medical data in their IT systems, making them a prime target for ransomware.

Facing this reality head-on, a market-leading insurer based in Europe turned its focus to minimizing the impact of a potential breach and bolstering its ability to recover quickly.

Over one million members rely on the company for essential health coverage. Upholding the integrity of core services and members' protected health information (PHI) and personally identifiable information (PII) is a priority.

The business takes security seriously, and the IT security team got the green light to pursue new protection and resilience measures to expand its defense-in-depth strategy.

Technology Challenge

Routine security audit findings revealed that the insurer needed to establish server-to-server security controls to proactively protect against ransomware and attacker lateral movement. The IT security team immediately prioritized investing in a segmentation solution.

Ultimately, the first line of defense team would own day-to-day operations of the segmentation technology. Operational efficiency was an important consideration.

Industry: Insurance

Environment: On-premises data centers with mixture of Red Hat Enterprise Linux and Windows 2019 servers

Challenge: Build data breach and ransomware resilience and protection for critical systems storing customer PII and PHI

Solution: [Illumio Core](#)

Use cases: High-value asset protection; ransomware isolation

Benefits: Cost-effective Zero Trust Segmentation with zero business interruptions; complete visibility of traffic flows and risk posed by unnecessary communication

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“If you're looking for an agile approach to microsegmentation, Illumio is the way to go. It's easy to implement and brings value quickly, providing powerful protection for critical servers.”

Head of IT Security
Health Insurance

The insurer investigated a number of solutions, including the deployment of a software-defined wide-area network (SD-WAN). This solution involved a full network re-architecture and multi-year timeline for implementation — an impractical approach, given the increased risk of ransomware.

The team narrowed its focus on microsegmentation as the most cost-effective and easy-to-use solution — unequivocally the way forward.

How Illumio Helped

A successful technical proof of concept of Illumio Core turned into quick, early wins soon after implementation.

Initially, the team segmented its tier-one applications to protect the claims, financial and insurance policy systems where sensitive information is stored.

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“We didn’t have to make a huge investment to get Illumio up and running,” says the insurer’s head of IT security. “Illumio made it easy to segment and lock down access to our critical core systems with no downtime or outages. You rarely get a technology vendor delivering that kind of value without a hitch.”

As the insurer adds new applications, they can easily apply already-defined Illumio security rules.

“Applications can inherit protection based on our initial policy development, speeding and simplifying our efforts to secure application workloads with Illumio,” says the IT security project analyst.

Results & Benefits

With Illumio’s Zero Trust Segmentation in place to contain and limit the spread of a breach, the business is assuredly more resilient, the head of IT security says.

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The way Illumio Core visualizes connections and high-risk traffic has proven particularly valuable.

“Not only does the Illumio ZTS Platform give us amazing visualizations of application communications in real time, but it does so in a visually intuitive way,” says the IT security project analyst. “When I show the map to my team, it’s easy for anyone to understand, which helps us achieve consensus on required actions.”

Early progress, simplified management, and superior visibility and protection combine to give the insurer the assurance it needs for the inevitable — be it a breach or the next security audit.

About Illumio



Illumio, the Zero Trust Segmentation Company, stops breaches from spreading across the hybrid attack surface. The Illumio ZTS Platform visualizes all traffic flows between workloads, devices, and the internet, automatically sets granular segmentation policies to control communications, and isolates high-value assets and compromised systems proactively or in response to active attacks. Illumio protects organizations of all sizes, from Fortune 100 to small business, by stopping breaches and ransomware in minutes, saving millions of dollars in application downtime, and accelerating cloud and digital transformation projects.