FIREWALL MANAGEMENT
WHITEPAPER

Ckezepis Law

Ckezepis Law is a real estate law firm located in Huntersville, NC who is completely changing how you close on a property. Whether from a buyer or seller's perspective, they have designed a way to make the process as smooth and as painless as possible. But this innovation does not mean they are without security challenges.

With a focus on providing attorney services pertaining to real estate closings, implementing security is key to the success of the business. Real Estate law firms deal with a large amount of sensitive information, as anyone who has ever purchased property before can attest to the vast amount of personal identifiable information required.

The paperwork created during the closing process can contain personal details, such as an individual's banking information, social security information estate data, and more. And with all real property transactions, there are large money transfers that take place between the banks and escrow accounts.

These facts are what lead Ckezepis Law to put a focus on how it was implementing security in its day-to-day processes when it launched its business.

Ckezepis Law did not have a need for a dedicated onsite I.T. employee, so JSCM Group was contracted to provide this service.

The Need: Relocation for Growth

Ckezepis Law initially started in an office rental space, however as business grew the need for dedicated space became apparent. Ckezepis Law relocated to a new office in metro Charlotte to provide clients with easy access to their services. With this move brought the need to design a network that was easy to manage, but also secure enough to provide peace of mind to clients that their personal information was protected. So Justin Ckezepis came to JSCM group to see what it would take to build out a secure network while laying the groundwork for growth and expansion.

The New Network Design

As the new office space was being built, Ckezepis Law contracted JSCM Group to design a network that was capable of handling the security needs of the growing organization. JSCM Group worked with Ckezepis Law to identify possible pain points so that an appropriate solution could be implemented.

Securing Entry to the Network

JSCM Group first worked with Ckezepis Law to identify the role that the firewall would perform. Given the types of information that the law firm was dealing with, it was important that a device be implemented that could properly protect data leaving and entering the network.

For this, JSCM Group selected a Fortinet 80E firewall. This device would be capable of performing functions such as web content filtering, application control and intrusion prevention. Additionally, JSCM Group could implement Deep Packet Inspection on HTTPS web traffic to ensure data was fully monitored.

Fortinet 80E

As part of the firewall configuration, JSCM Group could also implement VLAN segmentation. It was critical that the internal network be protected from guest traffic. Additionally, a phone system would be installed that needed to have proper segmentation to ensure good call quality. By implementing VLANs through the Fortinet firewall, JSCM Group could easily write policies to control the different segments of the network.

Wireless Access

Given that there would be clients entering the office on a daily basis, it was vital that a wireless network be implemented that could offer protected access. JSCM Group selected a Meraki MR33-HW access point for this implementation. The cloud management portal would offer easy configuration and monitoring of the network, while the hardware could handle the density of other wireless networks in the surrounding area.

Meraki MR33-HW

Implementing Structure

To create the network's backbone, JSCM Group implemented a Fortinet FortiSwitch 124E POE switch. This would work seamlessly with the firewall and could provide the necessary power for the access point. Additionally, this switch was designed to carry the VLAN segmentation from the firewall so that the different portions of the network were properly separated.

FortiSwitch 124E-POE

Network Management

Once the network was implemented, ongoing management became a focus. Ckezepis Law did not have a need for a dedicated onsite I.T. employee, so JSCM Group was contracted to provide this service. In the event a change is needed on the firewall, switch or wireless, JSCM Group can securely access the environment remotely and perform the necessary update. JSCM Group also provides ongoing maintenance such as firmware upgrades and security fixes to maintain compliance with local, regional, and national banks.

The management partnership in place between Ckezepis Law and JSCM Group has allowed a growing business the ability to focus on its clients without the worry of ensuring its data is secure. In the time since Ckezepis Law has moved to its own office, they have doubled their employees and see more growth in their future. The layout designed by JSCM Group has made on-boarding new employees seamless, meaning that the organization can continue grow and thrive.