Liberty Safeguards the User Experience and Availability with Radware’s DDoS Attack Protection

OVERVIEW
Liberty is a financial services company in business for over 60 years. Headquartered in South Africa, they offer business and consumer asset management, investment, insurance and health products to 3.2 million people across Africa, with a presence in 18 African countries.

Liberty works with businesses of all sizes and have continued to expand over the years. However, growing their company also made Liberty a target for threat actors and cyberattacks.

CHALLENGES
Liberty’s network was being overwhelmed by DDoS attacks, impacting their customer experience and business by taking their customer portal, applications and network offline. They were overwhelmed by network scans.

The Liberty team assumed their internet service provider (ISP) was providing protection but ultimately discovered that the ISP was not contractually obligated. Although they increased overall network bandwidth, the network outages, some lasting for hours, never went away.
SOLUTION

Liberty investigated several security solutions, but after consulting with a partner, elected to evaluate Radware. After discussions, Liberty selected Radware as a partner based on service strategy driven by research on future threat trends and technology.

To protect both of their data centers, Liberty purchased Radware’s DefensePro. DefensePro provides premise-based DDoS attack protection using behavioral algorithms to recognize attacks and generate real-time signatures.

The company witnessed an instant improvement following the installation of DefensePro in an inline deployment model. Liberty discovered that 40% of their network traffic was malicious traffic that was impacting their network and business performance and causing them to pay more for unnecessary bandwidth capacity.

“When the Radware team turned on traffic inspection based on policies, everything became much cleaner on the routers and traffic was reduced by 40%”
- Preston Soobramoney, Head of Cyber Security for Liberty Life Group

To ensure Liberty had access to in-country vendor expertise and support, they took advantage of Radware’s attack mitigation experts and purchased Radware’s Emergency Response Team (ERT) service to keep the Liberty team apprised of what is happening with their environment and improvements they can make to their security posture.

“Vendors who use a follow the sun model don’t provide the same support, they focus on the problem and not the cause. The Radware Technical Account Manager is trained to understand the customer environment. The TAM is involved in the project to provide guidance and recommendations on changes and optimization and I think we’ve seen the most value from that instruction.”
- Preston Soobramoney, Head of Cyber Security

Liberty continues to experience millions of different vector attacks on a monthly basis, which DefensePro detects and mitigates. In one month alone, Liberty experienced 3.4 million attacks, 62% of which were TCP scans.
Liberty is planning to leverage a major African co-location facility for all ingress/egress network traffic by moving their network from their existing data centers. The company is enhancing their data center protection with the latest version of DefensePro, which provides added DDoS attack defense against encrypted, burst and low and slow attacks. Liberty wants to ensure their protection as they configure private and public peering with various vendors, service providers and cloud providers.

**BENEFITS**

Liberty utilizes Radware DefensePro to eliminate malicious traffic on their network so their website and applications are available to clients and employees, improving the user experience and eliminating network overload.

Liberty’s security team values their Radware ERT TAM as security experts that help dissect the threat landscape and effectively manage security strategies and posture. Upgraded DefensePros will provide enhanced attack protection as Liberty centralizes their data center resources in the new co-location facility.