

# Thomas Miller Ensures Secure Network with Corero's IPS

## Summary

**Industry:** Insurance and investment management

**Challenge:** Implement an industry-leading intrusion prevention solution to proactively detect and block threats in order to preserve and protect its longstanding reputation for excellence and trust in the financial services industry.

**Solution:** Corero's IPS

**Results:** Thomas Miller now has proactive protection that blocks attacks without the false positives they endured when they only had IDS. Corero IPS provides increased visibility into network operations, and Thomas Miller can devote more IT resources into efforts that benefit the business.

## Key Benefits

- Stops advanced threats out of the box
- Outstanding performance; lowest latency, superior throughput
- Reliable, purpose-built hardware
- Fast, easy deployment
- Blocks, malware, spyware, viruses and botnets
- Compatible with distributed networking architecture

*Founded in 1884, Thomas Miller is a leading provider of management and agency services to mutuals, captives and insurance capital providers. Building on its integrity and solid foundations, it has been steadily and successfully expanding its scope of business since the mid 1980s. Previously a group of partnerships, the firm incorporated in 1999, and is now owned and controlled by staff, employing over 550 people worldwide with offices on four continents.*

## The Challenge

For several years, Thomas Miller had been relying on an intrusion detection system (IDS) to provide a simple form of network defense by passively monitoring traffic and warning of suspicious activity. However, as all IDS systems are able to only detect attacks and notify accordingly, but not protect against attacks, it left Thomas Miller inadequately protected and exposed to potential network breaches.

Confidence in the outmoded IDS technology began to further deteriorate with the increasing number of false positive events it was producing. The resulting intensive administration and management of the system to rectify the errors and prepare new and complicated exclusion rules compounded the feeling that the IDS was ill-equipped to protect Thomas Miller's IT infrastructure.

Unable to trust the IDS to defend its network, Thomas Miller sought technology that would enable better protection from attacks and offer fine granularity in policy setting. Aware that the threat landscape was changing and that the rising frequency and complexity of attacks posed an even greater risk to network security, Thomas Miller knew the solution had to be an Intrusion Prevention System (IPS) that would be proactive and be able to provide reliable, real time protection against all forms of attack without impeding network performance.

"We had operated for a long time in a mindset of 'security through obscurity' but as the faults in the IDS began to show, we realized we had to make amends and seek real network protection with IPS technology," says Paul Hamilton of Network Services at Thomas Miller.

## The Solution

Thomas Miller conducted rigorous in-line evaluation testing, under stringent conditions, of network IPS technologies from TippingPoint, IBM ISS and Corero Network Security [formerly Top Layer Security]. The ultimate decision was made to deploy the Corero IPS as it was the only solution to offer Thomas Miller the high levels of network protection, performance and reliability it required with Corero's unique Three Dimensional Protection (3DP) technology against malicious content, undesired access and rate-based attacks such as Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS).

---

“Our longstanding reputation for excellence and trust in the financial world meant we needed to be absolutely certain of our decision to deploy IPS technology and explains why we evaluated the products so extensively,” says Hamilton. “It was clear that the technology was far more advanced and years ahead of the competition in offering the proactive protection we demanded.”

The depth of granularity that Corero’s IPS is able to provide was also a crucial feature in the decision-making process and a key differentiator, allowing Thomas Miller far greater flexibility in configuring rules to their preferences.

“It allows us to easily isolate critical traffic by policy,” says Hamilton. “The result is a concise and accurate set of security events, which streamlines overall security event management. This is in contrast to other IPS products, which report on everything, requiring us to perform significant post-event filtering, which required a huge investment of our IT staff’s time.”

Two Corero appliances were deployed and positioned on the perimeter of the Thomas Miller network and rapidly configured for immediate network protection. Corero’s IPS can be set in line in passive or blocking modes depending on the user’s needs.

*“As the faults in the IDS began to show, we realized we had to seek real network protection with IPS technology.”*

*Paul Hamilton, Thomas Miller  
Network Services*

“The IPS units are deployed in line, with the flexible policy management allowing us to easily migrate specific rules from detection mode to blocking mode as appropriate,” Hamilton explains.

## The Results

Corero’s IPS forms the foundation of Thomas Miller’s layered approach to security by blocking attacks as they occur, and has eradicated the false positive events that previously beset them.

*“It was clear that the technology [Corero’s IPS] was years ahead of the competition in offering the proactive protection we demanded.”*

*Paul Hamilton, Thomas Miller*

In addition, the deployment of Corero’s solution has given Thomas Miller an increased visibility of its network operations, enabling it to be better aware and informed of traffic patterns. In the financial sector, with high volumes of data containing sensitive information traversing the network, this capability has been particularly valuable to the company.

“It has taken us to a far healthier position where we are now proactively protected rather than reactively defensive,” concludes Hamilton. “Knowing we have the broadest range of protection against any form of attack in place frees up resources and allows us to operate more productively and competitively by dedicating those resources to other critical areas of the business. The IPS sets the industry standard by which companies should protect themselves from new and emerging cyberthreats.”

## About Corero Network Security

Corero Network Security (CNS:LN) is a leading global provider of Network Intrusion Prevention Systems (IPS) and Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) defense solutions. Enterprise organizations rely on Corero to protect their critical online assets against risks associated with network-borne cyberthreats. Corero, formerly Top Layer Security, is headquartered in Massachusetts, U.S. with offices worldwide. [www.corero.com](http://www.corero.com).

---

### Corporate Headquarters

1 Cabot Road  
Hudson, MA 01749  
Phone: +1.978.212.1500  
Fax: +1.978.212.1600  
[www.corero.com](http://www.corero.com)

### EMEA Headquarters

No.1 Cornhill  
London  
EC3V 3ND  
Phone: +44 (0) 203 427 3407

To purchase Corero Network Security solutions, please contact your Corero representative at **1.978.212.1500** or authorized reseller.

Copyright 2011 Corero Network Security, Inc. All rights reserved.

---