



HIVELOCITY DEPENDS ON THE CORERO SMARTWALL® THREAT DEFENSE SYSTEM TO MAINTAIN HIGH PERFORMANCE AND SERVICE AVAILABILITY FOR A GLOBAL CUSTOMER BASE

SUMMARY

INDUSTRY

Data center services and cloud hosting provider

CHALLENGE

Provide continuous availability, reliability and high network performance to customers around the globe

SOLUTION

Corero SmartWall® Threat Defense System (TDS) with SecureWatch® Analytics

RESULTS

100 percent uptime the time regardless of what's going on inside the data center, outside the data center, on our network, and off the Hivelocity network

KEY BENEFITS

- DDoS attacks are automatically shut down
- Low latency, more control and visibility
- Capacity and scalability to handle large attacks
- A complement to existing security measures

Hivelocity provides data center services and cloud hosting from its privately-owned data center in Tampa, Florida. Hivelocity serves a wide range of customers from more than 130 countries around the world. The company's network which features 8 transit providers and 300+ private peers has been designed to provide high levels of availability, reliability and performance for every customer regardless of their geographic location.

CHALLENGE

Hivelocity was founded in 2002 with the mission to create an exceptional company with a singular focus on simplifying hosting. That mission has been so successful that today, the company has expanded to its own 30,000 square foot data center that is home to hundreds of server racks containing more than 10,000 physical and virtual servers. The company provides dedicated servers, colocation and cloud hosting solutions to thousands of businesses from practically every corner of the world.

Providing a high performance global service puts a lot of demands on Hivelocity's network. Director of Operations, Steve Eschweiler says the network is designed for speed and reducing 'hops' in order to keep latency down. Hivelocity has nine transit providers with over 250 Gigabits of transit capacity. "We focus on having high performance across the globe. Our network is designed to be just as fast in Indonesia as it is in Florida," says Eschweiler. "We have been able to obtain customers on the other side of the world because our service is so high performing, regardless of location."

With DDoS attacks on the rise and being a global concern, Hivelocity needed to deploy a solution that would ensure that its customers stay online. "The demographic of our customer base varies widely," according to Eschweiler. "We host web application, online games, audio and video streams as well as credit card processing services and health service companies who require a HIPAA compliant data center. These customers count on us to provide them with a highly reliable network that keeps their businesses online at all times."

THE SOLUTION

Dan Protich, Senior Network Engineer at Hivelocity had tested various DDoS mitigation solutions, prior to exploring Corero. “We had been using alternative solutions in the past but we encountered limitations in capacity and rule sets,” explains Protich. “Ultimately we felt that other vendors were boxing us in, so we started looking around for a different answer. We explored developing our own mitigation tools internally, but ultimately decided our development time was better used on our core projects,” says Protich.

“I started to do my research on Corero's SmartWall TDS. I especially like the scalable, line-rate performance approach of the Corero solution. The ability to add capacity incrementally where and when we need it is important for a growing operation like ours. It's what I would have built had I designed my own DDoS solution,” says Protich.

“With our network designed for speed and high performance, the Corero SmartWall TDS is simply an extension of that design,” says Protich. “It's important to us to have a solution like Corero to ensure that we deliver network performance and reliability to our customers, regardless of the scenario or the size of the DDoS attack that our network or their servers may be under. Our research over the course of a year led to Corero being the obvious choice for us.”

Corero being an on-premises solution is “critical for us” adds Protich. “Some of our clients looked at cloud based DDoS solutions, and regardless of the vendor, our customers don't want the latency that results when traffic has to get routed off the network to a scrubbing facility just to get back to their server here. That's why we made the decision early in the process to deploy equipment directly on premises, which doesn't add latency and allows better control. Basically if we can have full control, we have a full picture of what's going on and can provide a more timely response—which is what our customers expect from us,” says Protich.

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- Dan Protich
Senior Network Engineer, Hivelocity

SMARTWALL TDS DEPLOYMENT

Hivelocity utilizes Brocade networking equipment at the edge of its network, in front of the Corero SmartWall. “For all edge point entries into our network – whether it is transit or public peering – we filter on every single port of those devices,” says Protich.

“This blocks up to 70 percent of most attacks, and then the Corero device identifies the rest of the malicious traffic and blocks it - automatically. That way we know that 100 percent

of the attack traffic is filtered, and all of this is fully automated. Our customers don't have to call us to tell us a server is down and they are under attack. The filtering is all done behind the scenes automatically within seconds from the moment the attack starts,” adds Protich.

Protich explains, “The SmartWall TDS is deployed in a ‘one arm’ topology where we have our normal uplink paths if the traffic is not getting rerouted. If it does get rerouted, then it goes through an alternate path to reach that same destination. So it is basically right at the edge of the network, right between the edge and the aggregation layer is how it is deployed. We have seen and mitigated attacks well over 50Gbps. As our network grows and our filtering requirements grow we love that the Corero Smartwall is modular enabling 10Gbps incremental upgrades”.

“Corero was the final decision based on the interface, the capability, the scalability that it provides, as well as the people that represent the company.”

- Steve Eschweiler
Director of Operations, Hivelocity

THE RESULTS

Eschweiler says they had discussions with many vendors, some of which offered on-site appliances and others who had a hybrid solution that would have an on-site appliance but also ship off certain traffic for scrubbing. “We did a lot of due diligence on various products,” he says. “Corero was the final decision based on the interface, the capability, the scalability that it provides, as well as the people that represent the company. They have been really good to us throughout the process. Everything they said they were going to do, they have done. Everything they said the product was going to do, it has done. Corero has outperformed the other solutions that we tested and we are just very pleased with its capabilities. Since we put the SmartWall TDS into place, we have not had one customer adversely affected by any DDoS attacks.”

Hivelocity fends off DDoS attacks on a frequent basis, but their customers would never know it except for the reports provided to them. “Once traffic is filtered through the Corero system, we generate a report for the customer that details what the Corero appliance saw for that IP address, how large the attack was, what type of attack it was, and what duration it lasted,” says Protich. “We want our customers to see that they are getting good value for the service they pay for. Despite coming under attack, they never saw any business interruption.”

“We have provided our customers with 100% network uptime for years. Having an enterprise grade DDoS mitigation

THE RESULTS

tool from Corero will help us continue to provide the premium level of service they have grown to expect," says Eschweiler. "We have competitors that simply null route their customers when they are attacked. That solution is basically letting the attacker win and letting these criminals know all they have to do to take a site down is launch a DDoS attack. We have customers processing high volume transactions; one attack can cost them hundreds of thousands or millions of dollars. We are able to give our customers the assurance that they are going to be up 100 percent of the time regardless of what's going on inside the data center, outside the data center, on our network, and off our network. Corero helps us do that."

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- Steve Eschweiler
Director of Operations, Hivelocity

ABOUT CORERO NETWORK SECURITY

Corero Network Security, an organization's First Line of Defense® against DDoS attacks and cyber threats, is a pioneer in global network security. Corero products and services provide Online Enterprises, Service Providers, Hosting Providers and Managed Security Service Providers with an additional layer of security capable of inspecting Internet traffic and enforcing real-time access and monitoring policies designed to match the needs of the protected business. Corero technology enhances any defense-in-depth security architecture with a scalable, flexible and responsive defense against DDoS attacks and cyber threats before they reach the targeted IT infrastructure allowing online services to perform as intended. For more information, visit www.corero.com.

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