ESET® Case Study

Nexteer Automotive Corporation

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Arun DeSouza – CISO & CPO – Nexteer Automotive Corporation

THE CUSTOMER

Nexteer Automotive is a global leader in intuitive motion control. This multibillion-dollar global steering and driveline business delivers electric and hydraulic power steering systems, steering columns and driveline systems.

They also specialize in ADAS—advanced driver-assistance systems for automobiles—such as Parking Assist and Lane Departure Warnings, as well as automated driving enabling technologies for original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) around the world. Nexteer not only creates these advanced technologies and complex software, they build some of the actual components in manufacturing plants worldwide.

Nexteer, which has more than 110 years of automotive experience, serves more than 60 customers in every major region of the world with a workforce of over 12,000. Their headquarters are in Auburn Hills, Michigan.

THE CHALLENGE

Developing and building these complex automotive technologies demands topnotch IT security to protect confidential records, customer information, proprietary secrets, production methods and more. The cybersecurity solution needs to work as smoothly on shop floor PCs as it does in corporate offices and mobile devices worldwide.

According to Arun DeSouza, Nexteer’s CISO and CPO, he was looking for a new IT security solution that could meet the following business needs: “We wanted an antivirus that had state-of-the-art functionality, great performance, is cost effective, and integrated well within our security architecture.” Further, the new AV provider should have a strong commitment to customer success and a strong product roadmap.

THE SOLUTION

DeSouza, who had used ESET security solutions at a previous company for seven years, was impressed by ESET’s performance and focus on customer satisfaction. In addition, a Nexteer production facility in Poland, that used ESET endpoint protection, praised ESET’s reliability, convenient management console and low system footprint.

In deciding to implement ESET throughout Nexteer, DeSouza cited ESET’s affordability, independent testing results and multiple industry awards. In addition, he said, the solution could unify the entire enterprise, including factory floor PCs, with single pane of glass management and Active Directory integration.

Implementing ESET began with a pilot project, using trial licenses for 100 PCs. During this trial, Nexteer’s IT team evaluated performance, completed commercial modalities and leveraged ESET professional services and training to bring Nexteer technical teams up to speed.

This successful trial was followed by the purchase of a 10,000 seat license for ESET Endpoint Antivirus; automated removal of the old AV; and rapid installation of ESET across the globe.

Currently, the company is finishing up deployment, which is 90% complete across the enterprise with manufacturing facilities deployment upcoming.

The product has integrated seamlessly with Nexteer’s infrastructure and security architecture. Summing up his overall experience in implementation and results, DeSouza said: “Product performance is robust and efficient. Customer service and product support are superior. The solution is scalable across both enterprise and shop floor environments, and the management console and reporting are easy to use.”