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- Padilla Loza, Sub-Director of IT, Tienda Comercial Mexicana

Highlights

- A leading hypermarket chain in Mexico with nationwide grocery and supermarket stores that strives to be the preferred convenience store for its consumers by providing quality products and services and best value for money.
- Wi-Fi access to assure efficiency of its enterprise-wide workforce and to reliably run business-critical applications such as store inventory scanners
- Strong wireless security to largely automate compliance with the PCI DSS wireless security requirements
- Need for a solution that is scalable across geographically distributed locations, easy to manage and yet economical

Mojo Wi-Fi with built-in WIPS assures wireless efficiency and security for the retail chain.

Founded in 1930, Comercial Mexicana is today one of the leading hypermarket chains in Mexico. It is part of the Controladora Comercial Mexicana Group, which has around 300 stores across eight different retail brands, including Comercial Mexicana, Costco Mexico, Sumesa, Alprecio, City Market, Fresko and Restaurantes California.

Striving to improve the efficiency of its employees and supply chain, Comercial Mexicana had deployed a Wi-Fi network in its stores few years ago. Later it realized that the security on the legacy WLAN system alone could not ensure compliance with the new PCI DSS wireless security requirements (version 1.2 and beyond) and that it was not enough to protect the enterprise network from an evolving wireless threat landscape. A wireless intrusion prevention system (WIPS) was identified as a strategic investment to deliver an automated 24/7 protection from all types of wireless threats.

Because its store footprint was growing and the demand for Wi-Fi was increasing, Comercial Mexicana had to assure that any WIPS solution it chose could scale and be flexible enough to quickly accommodate new sites and new APs as they were rolled out. It was also planning to upgrade its legacy WLAN system and had to make sure that whatever WIPS it chose would work seamlessly with the new WLAN solution.

As a part of its evaluation criteria, Comercial Mexicana needed to understand the capabilities and features of several WIPS solutions, understand what threats each could detect, how prone each one was to false alarms – positive and negative, and compare the ease of management of each.

“We evaluated various WIPS products, including Motorola AirDefense and Mojo AirTight. Our entire discovery and testing process took five months. We put the Mojo solution through rigorous testing and found it to perform exactly as promised. Mojo AirTight was found to be the only truly automated system that allowed us to proactively address security threats,” said Padilla Loza, Sub-Director of IT, Tienda Comercial Mexicana.

The Mojo solution also provided the much-needed flexibility to Loza and his team. “Mojo had the best WIPS solution that could overlay on top of any WLAN solution, including our legacy Motorola Wi-Fi network. But the fact that Mojo also had a solution, which could simultaneously operate as a Wi-Fi AP and a WIPS sensor played a large role in our choice of Mojo,” noted Loza. “With both Wi-Fi access and WIPS in a single device, the Mojo C-60

device makes the solution very economical. The C-60 is an important part of our strategy as we migrate from our legacy WLAN system to a secure, updated WLAN system.”

All Mojo APs can operate in an AP-only mode, AP with integrated WIPS, or as a dedicated WIPS sensor. However, the Mojo C-60 dual radio, dual concurrent 3x3 model can additionally operate as an AP and a dedicated WIPS sensor at the same time. This unique feature is enabled by its purpose-built software-defined band-unlocked radios. Each radio can be tuned either in 2.4 GHz (802.11bgn) or 5 GHz (802.11an) frequency band for Wi-Fi access or WIPS protection. Alternatively, one of the radios can be tuned as a dual band dedicated WIPS sensor enabling simultaneous Wi-Fi access of choice and 24/7 WIPS protection in a single box.

Once testing was done, an analysis of cost was drawn up to understand the financial implications of implementing a WIPS. Comercial Mexicana wanted to understand not only the capital outlay but also the cost in man-hours for implementing and managing the system. Mojo AirTight became the logical choice for that scenario as well with its ease of deployment and simplicity in management that reduces the operational overhead.

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deploy and manage, even across geographically distributed units,” claimed Loza.

Out of the various management server options that Mojo offers, namely, appliance-based, VMware-based, private Cloud, and public Cloud, the retail chain opted for an appliance-based solution with servers managing local as well as remote Mojo devices.

Comercial Mexicana chose the Mojo C-50 dual band, single radio model to implement an overlay WIPS on top of the legacy Motorola WLAN system at its corporate headquarters and across its distributed centers and retail stores. For all new deployments, the retail chain chose the dual radio Mojo C-60 model so that it could simultaneously provide high-speed 802.11n Wi-Fi access as well as 24/7 WIPS protection.

Benefits

- Automated 24/7 wireless protection
- Ability to centrally manage Wi-Fi access and wireless security across its headquarters, distributed retail stores and warehouses.
- Flexibility to grow the Wi-Fi and WIPS footprint in a cost-effective manner as the company grows

Want to learn more about Mojo?

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