



SUCCESS STORY



U.S. Bancorp

Using VeriSign to Further Strengthen Its Network Security

SOLUTION SUMMARY

Industry

Banking

Challenge

Provide proactive, continuous network monitoring while controlling costs

Solution

VeriSign® Managed Security Services (MSS)

Results

- VeriSign provides 24/7 monitoring of U.S. Bancorp's crucial systems, informed by analysis of international DNS traffic.
- VeriSign monitoring capabilities are full-featured, including event correlation tools for highly accurate prediction of network threats.
- VeriSign services were far less expensive than providing a similar level of security using in-house resources.

Network security is a concern for any organization, but security is of primary importance for financial institutions, since they are charged with the task of protecting customers' valuable assets. Just as banks cannot afford to leave their vaults unattended, they cannot allow their networks to exhibit even the slightest vulnerability to unauthorized access and hacking, and must carefully monitor every bit and byte that passes to and from their systems. U.S. Bancorp (NYSE: USB), the sixth largest financial services holding company in the United States and a Fortune 500 company with assets in excess of \$189 billion as of the time of this writing, invested heavily in network security in its 2,243 banking offices and more than 4,425 ATMs in 24 states. The company turned to VeriSign to further strengthen its already formidable network security resources.

+ Unmatched Intelligence

U.S. Bancorp had excellent network monitoring capabilities, but only through VeriSign intelligent infrastructure services can the bank correlate data taken from the Internet as a whole, and apply this intelligence to network security. VeriSign runs the Top-Level Domain Name System (DNS) servers for *.com* and *.net*, as well as two of the world's 13 root DNS servers, which allow billions of Web page requests to be processed daily. VeriSign closely monitors all 13 of these servers for suspicious activity, gaining a firsthand glimpse into the overall health of the Internet. With this unique view, VeriSign can provide companies and government agencies with advance warning of Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attacks—in which individual servers are flooded with erroneous data—and many other kinds of threats.



Where it all comes together.™



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"We count on VeriSign every day, and every day VeriSign comes through. VeriSign is on our short list of preferred service providers."

Richard Stephenson,
Director of Information Security,
U.S. Bancorp

Richard Stephenson, director of Information Security at U.S. Bancorp, says that he selected VeriSign to provide security services after comparing the offerings of four different vendors. "U.S. Bancorp chose VeriSign because of the additional capabilities they gain as a result of operating critical portions of the Internet and telecommunications infrastructure. This allows VeriSign to analyze more information, and offer a better service, than any other provider," Stephenson says.

+ A First-Class Security Service

VeriSign leverages its unique network intelligence in its Managed Security Services (MSS), which provide companies with unmatched network monitoring, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. U.S. Bancorp used VeriSign MSS to monitor and manage over a hundred of the company's security devices, including host and network-based intrusion detection systems deployed throughout the United States.

Stephenson says that he was very impressed with the notification features of the VeriSign services, which keep him informed of shifting network conditions. "With VeriSign, U.S. Bancorp is getting a higher level of response than we previously had experienced in our monitoring capabilities." The system provides many other benefits, such as an event correlation tool, which allows VeriSign security personnel to compare the data from multiple devices for more granular reporting. Stephenson also appreciates the flexibility that the system affords. "We can tailor the system so that we're contacted as soon as any type of network activity reaches a threshold that we specify."

According to Stephenson, VeriSign services are also highly cost-effective. "Many services and skills are required to provide managed security services," Stephenson explains. "If we were to perform the kind of monitoring VeriSign provides, this would require a dedicated staff. Since VeriSign has not only the staff, but the equipment and expertise, VeriSign services offer an extremely attractive economy of scale."

Stephenson says that the most important benefit of VeriSign security services is their reliability, which allows U.S. Bancorp to focus on its core competencies. To help meet its demanding service-level agreements, VeriSign trains its security engineers in the most current security architecture and industry best-practices support. "Security is a necessary function," says Stephenson, "but it must be handled correctly. The greatest part about working with VeriSign is that I know VeriSign will hold the fort for us. This lets me turn my attention to other aspects of the network."

Visit us at www.Verisign.com for more information.