



SUCCESS STORY



Merrill Lynch

Further Strengthening Its World-Class Network

SOLUTION SUMMARY

Industry

Financial services

Challenge

- Correlate security logs and events including Internet-based intelligence leading to fastest possible event detection, analysis, and response
- Achieve significant operational efficiencies

Solution

VeriSign Managed Security Services provided the components Merrill Lynch wanted—a wider view and analysis of potential threats to its network—through use of the VeriSign Firewall Management Service and the Intrusion Detection Management Service.

Intelligence is often what separates a smart financial deal from a money-losing proposition. Similarly, network intelligence can prove a valuable ally when confronting a cyber attack on a large corporate network. Is it an isolated incident? Is it an international problem like the “SQL Slammer” cyber attack? And how might this attack affect a company’s internal investment in security technology? Such questions are multiplied when the victimized company runs a worldwide network that delivers lightning-speed financial data to millions of employees and customers so they can make timely decisions about their investments. For Merrill Lynch, a global financial services company that understands the importance of security infrastructure, network security is not an afterthought. As its investment in security technology grew, Merrill Information Technology (IT) sought comprehensive support for managing and monitoring its security infrastructure. Merrill Lynch turned to VeriSign to augment its already strong security infrastructure.

+ Extensive Security Infrastructure

Merrill Lynch is one of the largest financial services firms on Wall Street. In fact, in 1997, it became the first financial services company to surpass \$1 trillion in assets under management. As a company with offices around the globe, Merrill Lynch makes huge investments in technology, connecting branch offices in small towns to bustling trading floors in the world’s financial capitols. With such a far-flung network and financial transactions zipping from office to office at a dizzying rate, security and reliability are paramount.



Where it all comes together.™



SUCCESS STORY

Results

- Increases capability to detect, analyze, and respond to events
- Saves time and money
- Frees up time to tackle larger issues, such as its overall approach to risk management—an important issue for a large financial services firm
- Adds a level of security based on knowing that VeriSign Managed Security Services are managing and monitoring the company's assets 24/7, 365 days a year

With trillions of dollars in customer assets under management, Merrill Lynch built an extensive computer security operation to protect them. But according to Merrill Lynch, there was a problem: Despite substantial investments in the latest network security devices, such as firewalls and intrusion detection systems, the company still could not gain a good perspective on the potential impact of individual cyber threats. Merrill Lynch wanted to know whether an attack was an isolated incident or an attack across the Internet as a whole. The company had good internal data for review, but it lacked a broader view of cyber threats and appropriate security responses, according to officials.

VeriSign operates intelligent infrastructure services that the world relies on every day to enable and protect critical interactions, and VeriSign provided the enhanced vision into network activity that Merrill Lynch sought. VeriSign offered unmatched network security experience and a breadth of managed security service offerings, supported by the unique expertise gained from running key components of the Internet Domain Name System (DNS). VeriSign manages as many as 15 billion DNS inquiries every day for .com and .net.

Merrill Lynch brought in VeriSign to monitor and manage its firewalls and intrusion detection systems, in one of the largest security deals of its kind.

+ Comprehensive Security Services

VeriSign has a large staff of security professionals who use leading-edge tools and state-of-the-art Security Operations Centers to monitor network threats and protect companies like Merrill Lynch from cyber attacks. As a result of investments in managed security services technology, VeriSign can offer a huge financial services company like Merrill Lynch an array of security-related services, such as security assessments, VeriSign® Firewall Management Services, VeriSign® Intrusion Detection Management Services, and others.

Merrill Lynch's decision to have VeriSign manage parts of its security infrastructure is a growing trend among businesses. Companies such as Merrill Lynch are choosing to enhance their already strong security organizations with third-party experts with specific knowledge and expertise. With VeriSign, officials at Merrill Lynch say they can now focus on future strategies to combat cyber threats and cyber terrorism, instead of putting out fires on an ad hoc basis. Merrill Lynch reports that the company evaluated several competitors before choosing VeriSign, and was attracted to the experience of VeriSign staff and sophistication of its technology.

+ Learn More

For more information about VeriSign Managed Security Services and VeriSign® Global Security Consulting, please call 650-426-5310, email enterprise_security@verisign.com, or visit us at www.Verisign.com.

+ About VeriSign

VeriSign, Inc. (Nasdaq: VRSN) operates intelligent infrastructure services that enable and protect billions of interactions everyday across the world's voice and data networks. Additional news and information about the company is available at www.verisign.com.

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

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