

# *The Ministry of Labor in San Salvador Safeguards Citizens and Operations with Hillstone Networks*

## The Customer

The Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare in San Salvador is a governing institution of public administration, covering matters of Labor and Social Welfare, and guarantor of labor rights that are based on dialogue and social consensus within a framework of equity and social justice. Within its institutional axes, the Ministry guarantees employment opportunities, promotes equal work, builds bridges between the labor sector and union organizations and provides quality services in public management.

## The Challenge

As a government entity, the Ministry has taken extraordinary steps to secure its network and information assets. The engineer Francisco Sanchez, Ministry IT Manager states, "Our vision for the Ministry of Secure is to drive best-in-class security measures across every aspect of operations. This includes choosing the right security technology, adopting industry best practices, and applying the most prudent security policies. Ultimately, we're striving for elegant solutions that safeguard our network assets while enabling information access to support the Ministry's mission of guaranteeing labor rights, and engaging in the social dialogue within a framework of equity and social justice."

With more and more computer systems accessing the Internet, and a growing population of mobile users, the Ministry also wanted better visibility into network traffic to identify the number and types of threats.

Sanchez comments, "We wanted an integrated approach to security, which provides an amazing portfolio of intrusion prevention, web filtering, VPN, policy control, and other core capabilities all in one platform. We're finding a new level of security in this platform and it is taking us to a whole new level, not only securing our network but also providing users with safe, reliable access to the information they need."

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## The Solution

The Ministry chose the Hillstone Networks Enterprise Security and Risk Management solution to transform its security infrastructure. Hillstone's solution suite delivers effective protection for organizations with a comprehensive approach that includes visibility, analytics and real-time enforcement. The solution helped the Ministry gain greater visibility and control over network traffic with intelligent prevention against known and unknown cyberthreats. The solution is a core component of the Ministry's initiative, allowing it to see, understand and act on threats, in order to safeguard network assets while enabling employees unencumbered access to information. The result is that the agencies can now provide efficient, effective services to citizens.

The Ministry deployed two T-series Intelligent Next Generation Firewalls (iNGFWs), one in the datacenter of Central Labor ministry and the other on the Contingency Plan site outside of San Salvador to ensure continuous availability in case one of the sites suffers an outage. In addition, The Ministry deployed E-series Next Generation Firewalls (NGFWs) in all of the national dependencies of the Ministry. Those devices are connected via VPN to the Hillstone iNGFW that is located in the Ministry. Through these VPNs, the Ministry can use services including institutional mail, MTPS systems, institutional marker, Hacienda system, Web services, Database services, Replicas of active directory, etc.

The Ministry also augmented the iNGFWs with Hillstone Networks security subscriptions. For example, Advanced Threat Detection (ATD) and Hillstone Advanced Behavior Detection (ABD) automatically detect unknown malware and stop these advanced attacks before the network is compromised, without requiring manual human intervention. Intrusion Prevention, Anti-Virus and Attack Defense protect the network from advanced threats by scanning content within allowed traffic for threats, including exploits, viruses, and

malware. URL Filtering already built into the firewalls provides enhanced visibility and control of all application and Web activity.

With this level of comprehensive protection, attacks on the Ministry's network are stopped cold before they ever have a chance to inflict damage. In fact, when previously unknown threats are identified anywhere in the world, Hillstone Networks creates new protections that are distributed globally to all its subscribers. For the Ministry, that means its iNGFWs are automatically updated to proactively guard against emerging threats.

**"Our security solution goes far beyond just a couple of big iron boxes," says the Eng. Sanchez. "We're connected to an entire ecosystem that autonomously watches over the global threat landscape to keep us protected."**

One of the most important aspects of ensuring network security is having comprehensive visibility and control. The Ministry has the best in the business: granularity of security, I-Center where the central dashboard shows the origin and destination, type of attack, country that generates the attack, risk index, execution of the attack, and the hits of the attacks. **"We wanted visibility and control," Sanchez observes. "We can see exactly what's on our network, classify the good traffic from the bad, and eliminate everything that's not authorized. It's making a revolutionary difference in our ability to prevent cyberthreats."**

This same level of control will become increasingly important as more and more mobile devices come onto the network. This is also where the performance of the iNGFW makes a huge difference. Network security is always a balancing act between preventing malicious intrusion and ensuring unencumbered, authorized access.

## Results

The Hillstone solution helped the Ministry manage security risks with complete user, application, and device visibility to see everything regardless of location. Added intelligent analytics helped the Ministry understand their security posture, and to differentiate between good and bad traffic. Real-time, high-performance controls helped the Ministry take action and mitigate risks from potential attacks and breaches.

While the battle between external threats and internal defense mechanisms is seemingly never-ending, The Ministry is now well-armed to deal with threats today and into the future. What's more, the benefits and value the Ministry realizes from the Hillstone Networks Security Solution are only expected to increase as it rolls out additional platform capabilities and codifies security best practices across all the national dependencies of the Ministry.

**The engineer Sanchez concludes, "We're changing our security posture to reflect the realities of today's cyber threats. We now have the tools to implement best-in-class next-generation security measures, with many capabilities we didn't have before. This is allowing us to confidently assure citizens that information on our network is properly protected."**