

How Block Armour helped a leading compliance consultancy provide secure and compliant remote access to **IT systems for teams working from home**





THE CHALLENGE

Our client, a reputed international consultancy, helps organizations with employee-related compliance and teams were accustomed to working from office premises only. The company is ISO 27001:2013 compliant, and places lot of emphasis on using standard and secure tools and processes mandated by their global customers.

When the Indian government announced a lockdown to handle the Covid-19 crisis, the company was completely unprepared for a transition from an in-office environment to remote working. As a result, the company found itself in an exceptionally challenging situation and completely uncharted waters in matters of providing secure and compliant access to employees working from home. Also, the people and systems are distributed across various locations, so secure access to applications outside the enterprise perimeter was a challenge.

As there was no time to change the IT environment, the ask from our client was very clear and concise. They needed a solution that was easy to deploy with minimal changes to the existing IT infrastructure and the way employees worked.



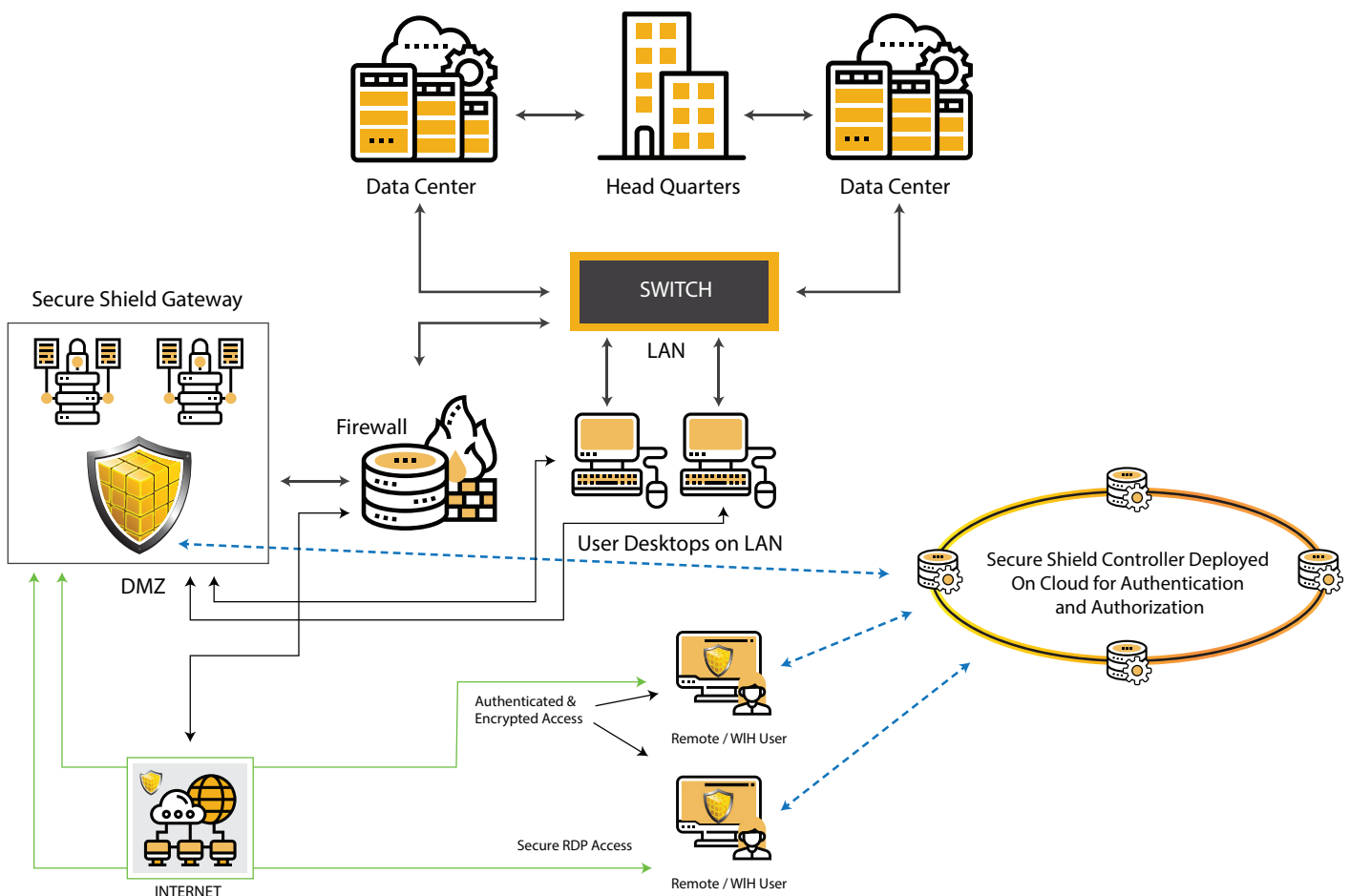
MAJOR CONCERNS

The issues faced by our client were:

- 🛡 Inability to make changes to the IT environment due to sudden lockdown
- 🛡 Lack of hardware that could be scaled up without much notice
- 🛡 Legacy VPN solution which could not cater to the demands of a dynamic, distributed environment
- 🛡 Lack of a solution that allows secure access to applications for teams working from home
- 🛡 Lack of proper security measures on personal devices
- 🛡 Inability to control access on devices
- 🛡 High risk of malware and ransomware attacks, and therefore high risk of viruses and trojans spreading via VPN
- 🛡 To be able to comply with ISO 27001:2013 international cyber security standard and maintain their certified status

THE SOLUTION

Block Armour implemented its Secure Shield product providing secure remote access to the organization's employees enabling access to organization applications. The solution is robustly designed using Zero Trust, Software Defined Perimeter (SDP) architecture, and Blockchain technology. The Remote Access solution provides maximum security for enterprise systems and cloud servers by making them invisible to prevent malicious attacks at the same time facilitating secured communication channel to access the applications. The solution also ensured holistic security by providing user and device authentication and encrypting user-server communication.





Easy to implement and cost-effective

Unlike the cumbersome and complex VPN, Secure Shield was easy to implement and manage. Minimal changes were needed in the organization's IT environment, thereby, bringing down costs and reducing the implementation time.

Prevent sensitive data loss

RDP access was enabled to user desktops within the corporate LAN without exposing the internal network over the Internet, thus ensuring the integrity of sensitive data. Also, employees could continue to perform their day to day work without much impact.

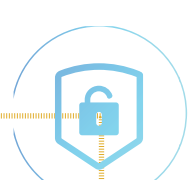


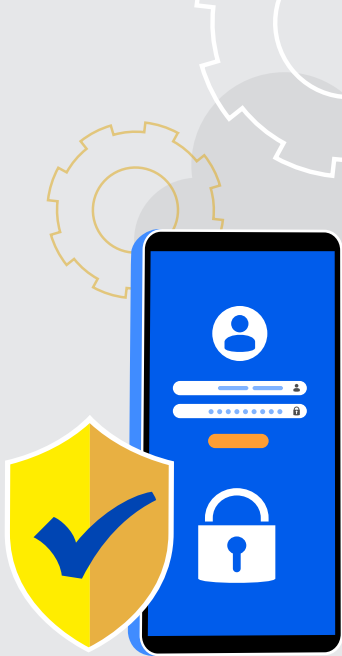
Grant precise application access

Secure Shield provides dynamic access to applications based on device ID instead of IP Addresses. Application-level access was provided to the employees who needed it, thereby ensuring lesser surface area for any attacks. The organization also had the visibility into the level of access its employees had and were able to make necessary adjustments as per the requirements.

Micro-segmentation to prevent lateral movement

The solution's micro-segmentation capability also ensured that only a validated user-device pair was able to use requisite applications. Thus, our solution prevents lateral movement by cybercriminals to gain access and exfiltrate sensitive data.



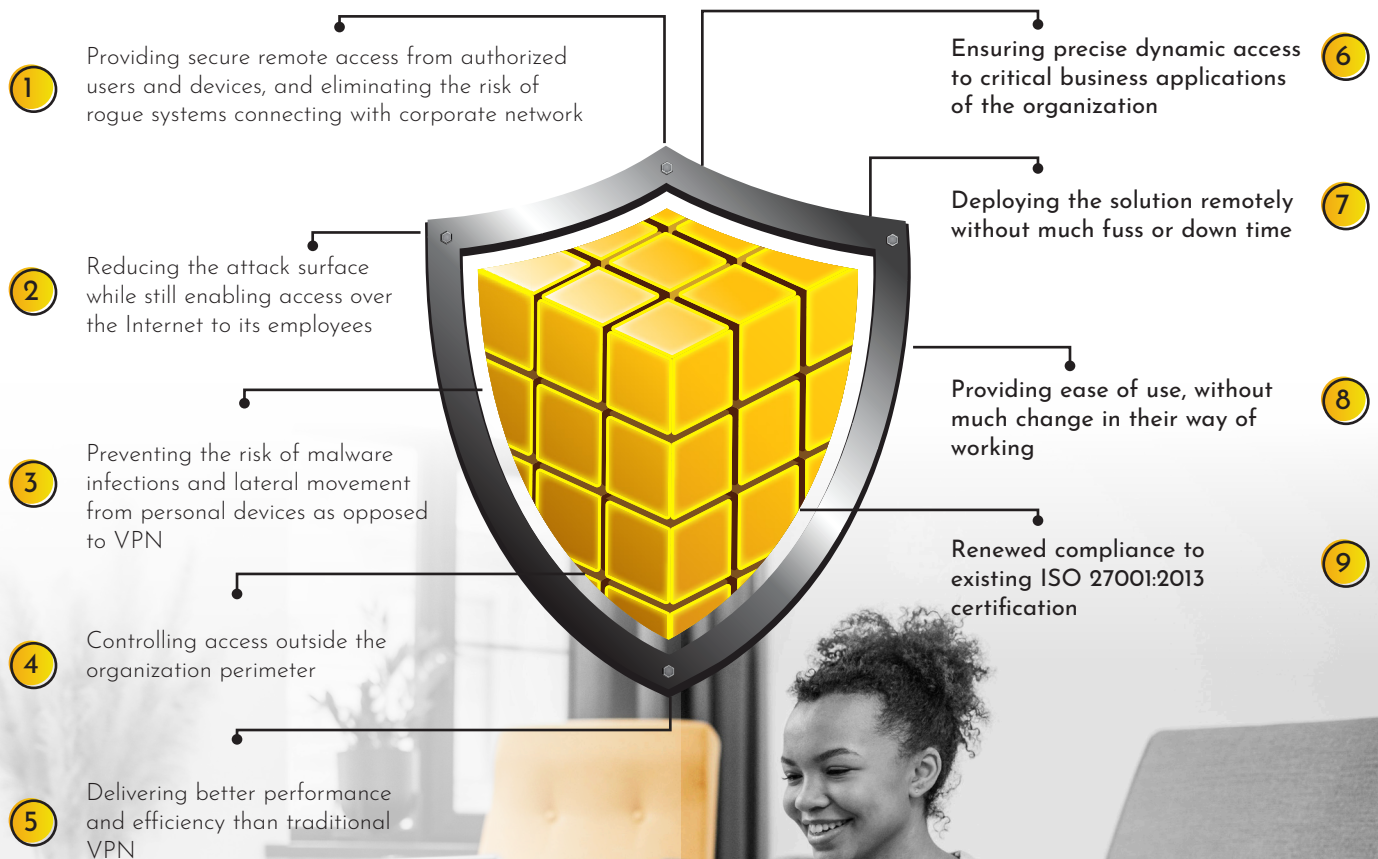


Improved remote access to corporate applications

Since Secure Shield only provides access to business traffic, all the non-productive traffic originating from personal devices never reached the corporate network, thus, eliminating corporate network traffic congestion and providing better performance for accessing business applications remotely.

With these security measures in place, the Remote Access solution helped the organization to quickly enable access with enhanced security, thereby empowering teams of remote workers.

With Secure Shield, we were able to address their challenges and deliver the following benefits:





RESULTS

Block Armour rapidly deployed its Remote Access solution to allow the employees to access the company's systems securely and efficiently from home. Maximum security was enforced although users were accessing corporate applications remotely through RDP. For an organization who had always used in-office access to business applications for their workforce, Block Armour helped in a smooth transition to secure, compliant application-based access for employees when working from home.

Testimonial

Block Armour deployed their product remotely and helped us to set up the whole process for enabling us to work from home in a secure and compliant manner within a short span of time. We highly appreciate their team for helping us and extending their support almost on a 24/7 basis for the first few days.



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