Professional Organization for Therapists Ensures Security While Gaining Benefits of AWS Cloud Deployment

Before
Both the website and the member management system run on the same server, leading to concerns about scalability, availability, and security.

After
After migrating to Amazon Web Services (AWS) with Trend Micro™ Deep Security™, JPTA achieved high-level scalability, reliability, and security, along with Cybersecurity Basic Act compliance.

Challenge
The Japanese Physical Therapy Association (JPTA) represents approximately 95,000 physical therapists around Japan. JPTA president Kazuto Handa says, “The essential and fundamental role of the professional associations such as ours is to establish a position in society for people who have a certain professional ability, in our case physical therapists.”

With this goal, this association has tirelessly worked to expand its activities in the fields of education and training, surveys, public relations, and skill acquisition. The annual JPTA Congress is a key venue for physical therapists to acquire the latest skills and knowledge. In 2014, the Congress had 8,000 delegates. JPTA also holds an annual academic training conference that attracts 3,000 participants, and more than 250 small-scale training events around Japan every year.

JPTA is also aiming to expand its efforts to provide online training and education. Association vice president Hideyuki Saito says, “Just by looking at the academic research, you can see that the field of physical therapy is becoming ever more subdivided. Academic information must be shared rapidly and widely, and I believe that web-based interactive training will be the key to achieving this.

JPTA’s previous website was run alongside the member management system on a single server, and it was lacking in both scalability and availability. JPTA also had concerns in terms of information security, and looking back, Katsumi Ogawa (also a vice president) notes that “Given the frequent occurrences of intrusions and attacks on Japanese public institutions and companies, along with the adoption of the Cybersecurity Basic Act, there was an urgent need...
As healthcare services become increasingly dynamic, it is becoming more and more important to be able to swiftly provide beneficial information to as many caregivers as possible. That's exactly why we have great expectations of and place large demands on our website, and I’m satisfied that with the reforms made here, the potential and security of the website has been enhanced.

The Japanese Physical Therapy Association (JPTA) is the only professional organization in Japan for physical therapists. It was established in 1966, and since then it has acted to improve the medical treatment, health, and welfare of citizens while raising the position of physical therapists through academic activities including conventions, magazines, and support for research. Its activities have now expanded to include education and training, surveys, public relations, and skill acquisition.

Customer profile

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for us to improve our protection against cyber-attacks.” As a result, JPTA chose to migrate to AWS for improved scalability and performance and to strengthen its defensive capabilities with Trend Micro Deep Security.

Solutions

Technology partner Fujisoft proposed and executed the migration of the website to AWS and the implementation of Deep Security. First of all, Fujisoft separated the member management system and the website, and created a configuration for the website platform using a web server and database server on AWS. It also stored the website’s static content on AWS’s Amazon Simple Storage Service (Amazon S3). The performance of the website was improved by using Amazon CloudFront, which functions as a cache server for content distribution.

JPTA was committed to a comprehensive security posture, so Fujisoft decided to implement firewall, IDS/IPS, virtual patching, web application protection, anti-malware, and log inspection. This decision leads to the ultimate adoption of Deep Security.

Fujisoft’s Tetsuo Harada says, “The advantage of Deep Security is that it comprehensively provides all the functions that you need for server defense, and it can be run from a single management environment. In this project, we were able to provide all of the functions required to meet the customer’s requirements using only Deep Security. If we tried to provide these many functions using products from other companies, we would have to implement them all individually, making operation of the system overly complex.” And because Deep Security provides all functions as software, it was possible to implement firewall and IDS/IPS functions without installing any hardware.

Mr. Harada says, “Deep Security runs stably on AWS, and has a strong track record. I have used it in other AWS projects and have been able to see its reliability. Trend Micro responds swiftly to new threats, so we can have peace of mind in recommending it to our customers.”

Results

JPTA plans to move its member management system onto AWS in the future as well. Deep Security will also be a part of this project.

With the migration to AWS and the adoption of Deep Security, the scalability, availability, and security of JPTA’s website have all been enhanced.

“Our members are eager to learn, and to exchange information among peers, so the way we use the web is important. Whatever happens, we must ensure our website is safe and secure,” concludes Mr. Harada.

With the world’s fastest-aging population Japan’s need for highly trained physical therapists will continue to increase. Going forward, AWS and Trend Micro Deep Security will play a critical role in helping us to fulfill that need.