

Organization

Customer: Sareb

Site: www.sareb.es

Industry: Real estate/finance

Headquarters: Madrid, Spain

Employees: 350

Challenge

Sareb needed to secure information critical to the Spanish economy while sharing it with its employees and third-party partners in the cloud.

Solution

- Symantec Advanced Threat Protection
- Symantec Data Loss Prevention
- Symantec Data Loss Prevention Cloud Prevent for Microsoft Office 365
- Symantec Endpoint Protection
- Symantec Endpoint Encryption
- Symantec Email Security.cloud

Benefits

- Agile, reliable security
- Increased productivity
- More efficient help desk
- Always-open assistance

Symantec Strategic Partner

Hewlett Packard Enterprise



Sareb

Sharing Highly Confidential Information in the Cloud and Securing It from Attack

In the wake of the 2012 financial crisis, the Spanish government established Sareb, Spain's "bad bank," created to manage and dispose of assets transferred by the nine financial institutions that received government funding. The sole purpose of Sareb is to serve as a private management company to help restructure the Spanish financial sector and provide financial aid to real estate banks experiencing excessive exposure and financial difficulty. As a key element of the restructuring, Sareb received almost 200,000 assets—or the equivalent of more than US\$54 billion worth of Spanish real estate assets—which it is now selling back into the market.

Securing sensitive data

As a relatively small organization, Sareb faces the task of securing its data against attack on a limited IT budget. Further complicating this challenge is a tight deadline. The company must sell all the assets on its books by 2027. "When Sareb was created, we had nothing—no firewalls, no data loss prevention, no threat protection," says Gabriel Moline, corporate security manager at Sareb. "And yet time to market is critical for us. We needed a security infrastructure that would allow us to go to market quickly and securely—that would allow our people to use cloud technology to collaborate with our business partners without handcuffing them."

In short, Sareb needed a security solution that would provide absolute cloud protection. In its early days, Sareb had suffered a major zero-day attack and a CryptoLocker ransomware attack. And even now, hackers have created a malicious application called Sareb Go (modeled on the reality game Pokemon Go), designed to take all of Sareb's assets by force. "This is the kind of thing we're dealing with," Moline says.

Protecting data wherever it exists

Sareb had antivirus technology from a competing vendor in place when two attacks occurred, but the existing antivirus solution did not provide adequate protection against these hacks. It was important for Sareb to stay ahead of advanced persistent threats and become more proactive. The company decided to reach out to Symantec, and its implementation partner Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE), to request a proposal for a better solution.



In today's threat landscape, businesses need cutting-edge protection against advanced threats. Symantec Advanced Threat Protection is the best answer against sophisticated malware and zero-day attacks on critical control points throughout our organization.

—Gabriel Moline
Corporate Security Manager
Sareb

That solution was Symantec™ Advanced Threat Protection: Endpoint, adding Endpoint Detection and Response (EDR) capabilities, which enabled Sareb to uncover suspicious events, and to search for particular indicators of compromise to get deep threat visibility and remediate attack artifacts across all endpoints.

The implementation and the ability of Sareb to reach its business and security goals were the result of a joint collaboration among Sareb, Symantec, and HPE. Symantec is a member of the HPE Agility Alliance program, the top tier of HPE's collaborative partnerships, exclusive to broad-based companies that are globally recognized for their quality, products, and value to clients.

Additionally, with Symantec Advanced Threat Protection, Sareb now has the visibility to uncover attempts to infiltrate the organization via email. "In today's threat landscape, businesses need cutting-edge protection against advanced threats," Moline says. "Symantec Advanced Threat Protection is the best answer against sophisticated malware and zero-day attacks on critical control points throughout our organization."

Multilayered security protection

Sareb also relies on a number of other Symantec products to protect the organization. It implemented Symantec Data Loss Prevention to help track and secure confidential information and protect it wherever it is: in the cloud, on-premises, or on mobile devices.

"We have nearly a thousand endpoints in our organization," Moline says. "With Symantec Data Loss Prevention, we can keep data safe on all our endpoints with local scanning and real-time monitoring. We can monitor confidential data that's being downloaded, copied, or transmitted to or from laptops and desktops, including through email or cloud storage. We can also extend monitoring and protection to our mobile devices."

Sareb subsequently implemented Symantec Data Loss Prevention Cloud Prevent for Microsoft® Office 365®, which helped the company to move its on-premises applications to the cloud. Sareb can now increase its agility and take advantage of the cloud without losing visibility and giving up control of sensitive information.

Other Symantec solutions in use at Sareb include Symantec Endpoint Protection, Symantec Endpoint Encryption, and Symantec Email Security.cloud. Additionally, Sareb benefits from Symantec's Endpoint Detection and Response capability without deploying more endpoint agents, saving the company significant time and effort.

"Because we already had these solutions in place, the upgrade path to Symantec Advanced Threat Protection was extremely easy and seamless," Moline says. "The upgrade plan not only gave us more control over our security, it also simplified our security strategy by allowing us to protect all our endpoints, network, and email through a single console. We have a small security team. Without Symantec, we could not handle our security with the depth and breadth we can now."



HPE delivered a strong and valuable solution. The combined strength as Agility Alliance Partners ensures tested technology alignment and an ability to deploy solutions rapidly, ahead of market demand.

—Juan Parra
Iberia Sales Director
Hewlett Packard Enterprise



Accelerating time to market

The Symantec solution allows Sareb to execute on its mission with security and confidence. The company must manage a huge amount of risk, and it needs to sell a significant number of assets every day. If it doesn't, it loses money. That's why Sareb needed a security infrastructure that would enable it to go to market quickly. With the Symantec solution, Moline's team can protect the bank while saving time and resources.

Expediting data sharing

Before the Symantec solution, Sareb did operate in the cloud—but in a cloud with an iron lining, making communication with clients sluggish. “When we moved to Symantec,” Moline says, “we could offer a better service for our internal clients. We made it easier for them to do their work without introducing more effort on the security front.”

Symantec solutions enable the company to transfer sensitive documents securely in the cloud and build confident relationships with key partners. Moline and his team can now control the data that moves on the network while still increasing Sareb's flexibility and employee productivity.

Empowering the help desk

Sareb's help desk operates far more efficiently with the Symantec solution. Now, when a user forgets a password or the security team has to unlock a machine, it can handle the problem easily. If the team needs to create a new policy for endpoint encryption, it can do it immediately. The simple integration of various Symantec solutions also makes operations easier to handle, while the unified security platform gives Moline a single, comprehensive view into suspicious events across the entire Sareb organization.

Tuning performance to perfection

Moline maintains a close relationship with both HPE and Symantec technical experts and has a direct line of communication that's always open. “That is so important to me,” he says. “I mean, you can own a Ferrari, and it's a great car, but if you don't know how to drive it properly, what's the use of having it? With Symantec and HPE, I have a high-end race car that I can expertly drive.”

For more information, contact your local Symantec sales representative or business partner, or visit www.symantec.com/products/advanced-threat-protection.

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