COLGATE-PALMOLIVE

Industry
Consumer packaged goods

IT environment
Tens of thousands of employees worldwide, with more than half a million devices across its manufacturing locations.

COLGATE-PALMOLIVE SUCCESSFULLY ADDRESSES SECURITY IN ITS OT NETWORK

Armis enables holistic and comprehensive visibility and control across the manufacturing environment

Colgate-Palmolive has a dedicated security team in place to oversee its IT infrastructure in hundreds of locations. In keeping with its adherence to best practices and using best available technologies, the company implemented Armis to provide the OT security team with broader visibility, insights into gaps, and the ability to fine-tune policy in alignment with current threats and risks. Colgate-Palmolive now works in close collaboration with the vendor to continually drive new, out-of-the-box use cases for Armis at its manufacturing facilities.

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Colgate-Palmolive has been supplying hundreds of millions of consumers all over the world with personal care, household, healthcare, and veterinary products. The company has over 60 locations in the U.S. and 280 locations in more than 70 countries overseas.

While Colgate-Palmolive has a large, seasoned security team overseeing the IT infrastructure, the operational technology (OT) security team is evolving and growing. At the helm are Information Security Engineers Rafia Noor and Shem Stephens. Both are deeply involved in strategic OT initiatives and operationalization of solutions and processes at the organization's more than 40 manufacturing plants.

Armis Demonstrates Immediate Value

Beyond protection of customer, employee, and proprietary data—a top priority for the company as a whole—the OT security team has been focusing on improving visibility into assets and better securing the OT network. After a successful proof-of-value (PoV), the OT security team deployed Armis to monitor and protect more than half a million devices across its manufacturing locations. Initial deployment was swift and problem-free.

Noor attests to the big boost in visibility across the OT network that Armis has provided. As she says, "Armis provides a broad-sweep view of the devices in that environment, enabling us to visually comprehend what devices we have."

Another important value Armis has brought to the table is the ability to set up and enforce policies. Colgate-Palmolive's OT security team uses many built-in policies, as well as creating their own custom policies that they map to threats and risks they are seeing in OT in order to enhance their security practices and better detect adversaries.

Additionally, the OT security team appreciates the close business relationship they have cultivated with Armis leadership. "When something happens, or Armis comes up with new features, we are able to do some testing and offer our feedback, which has been incorporated into new releases. This has created a solid partnership between Armis and Colgate-Palmolive—and that's been very important in helping us expand our uses for the product," notes Stephens.

An example of this is the way the company uses the vulnerability management system (VMS) module in Armis. Noor has been working closely with the VMS team at Armis to provide input on additional features that would enhance the product and how it's used.

"It gives me a lot of hope and encouragement to see Armis implementing our suggestions, and we're getting excited about testing them out in the near future," she explains.

Detecting the Unprotected

When Stephens first started in his OT security role, Armis encountered several devices the team was not aware of. As Noor and Stephens point out, the manufacturing plants are always adding new technologies, so

Armis Results

- Detailed insights into the new technologies that are continually introduced to the manufacturing environment

- Easy-to-create security policies that map to the latest threats and risks

- Modern, easy-to-navigate user interface

- Software-as-a-Service solution for easy deployment and maintenance

- Automatic threat detection and response

- Rich data sets available in a single, simple-to-access dashboard, thanks to integrations with existing tools

- Collaborative and agile vendor who takes customer feedback seriously and provides rapid feature enhancements

they have made it a practice to spot check the OT network with Armis for associated security vulnerabilities.

"From an overall security perspective, visibility into the manufacturing area was a big thing for us. We needed a tool to see what our plants are doing in order to better support them in terms of their security posture—and Armis fit the bill perfectly," explains Stephens.

Armis Stands Apart from the Rest

Noor and Stephens agree that Armis is unique in that it provides visibility into both IT and OT.

"In my experience, this is where these tools really stand out," says Noor. "It provides the complete picture. Also, the cloud infrastructure and ease of management is another huge benefit."

Armis's ability to integrate with existing third-party IT and security tools makes it a wise investment for Colgate-Palmolive. These integrations provide a richer security data set. Now there's no need to look at each point solution and aggregate that information manually.

When we look at the OT environment, we don't have to pivot to those tools. The Armis dashboard brings in the data from these products and enables us to view it through a single pane of glass, which minimizes our need to look at different interfaces. It's a great feature, and something Armis does really well," remarks Noor.

Innovative Use Cases for Armis

The OT security team is also leveraging Armis to facilitate network segmentation. Armis discovers, profiles, and classifies devices in the network and automatically enforces policy to ensure that devices are connected appropriately.

Apart from the security team, other groups at Colgate-Palmolive are utilizing Armis to help them do their jobs more effectively and efficiently.

"Our auditing team uses Armis to look into areas of opportunity at our plants. And systems engineers use Armis to see when a programmable logic controller (PLC) was last changed out. They have that information at their fingertips now. As our leadership continues to collaborate with Armis leadership, we can create these unique use cases that provide tremendous benefits for specific teams or individuals," says Stephens.

"Armis provides a broad-sweep view of the devices in that environment, enabling us to visually comprehend what devices we have."

Rafia Noor
Security Engineer
Colgate-Palmolive

About Armis

Armis is the leading unified asset visibility and security platform designed to address the new threat landscape that connected devices create. Fortune 1000 companies trust our real-time and continuous protection to see with full context all managed, unmanaged, and IoT devices, including medical devices (IoMT), operational technology (OT) and industrial control systems (ICS). Armis provides passive and unparalleled cybersecurity asset management, risk management, and automated enforcement. Armis is a privately held company and headquartered in Palo Alto, California.

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