

CASE STUDY

How Pollinate Automated IP Whitelisting and Integrated Azure Sentinel with Perimeter 81

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- Tesfa Atere, IT Consultant of Pollinate

The Challenge: Automating Networking Tasks

Replacing Manual IP Whitelisting

Like many companies, Pollinate didn’t have many employees working remotely before COVID-19. Once everyone was forced to work from home, this affected how Pollinate needed to whitelist their employee’s IP addresses. “Before all our employees moved to working remotely, we only needed to whitelist our office environment and networks to allow our users to connect to particular resources. But once our employees were forced to work from home, we suddenly went from having one office IP, which most users would connect, to having like 200 IPs across the world which we would need to whitelist,” shared Tesfa Atere, Pollinate’s IT Consultant.

According to Atere, the need to manually whitelist every new IP address became a tougher task for Pollinate’s IT team. “Over time, we felt manually whitelisting every IP address was creating too much pressure, while at the same time different resources were needed to allocate IT tasks. Whitelisting IPs was needed to ensure our users would have access to the sensitive and critical data resources from



pollinate

Pollinate is a financial software business, focused on reinventing merchant acquiring for banks around the world. The Pollinate technology is an innovative cloud-based platform that wraps around a bank’s legacy payment systems. The platform powers merchant and consumer digital experiences including onboarding, portals and loyalty programs, without costly and distracting platform migrations.

For banks, the Pollinate platform helps them to understand and engage with their customers better and build stronger relationships with their merchants and consumers alike.

Headquartered in London, UK, Pollinate has approximately over 90 employees based in the London area.

their locations. We just needed a solution that would give us one IP address, one gateway, which we could then whitelist with our resources and allow users to access more smoothly.”

After researching various solutions, Pollinate felt like Perimeter 81 was the right fit. “When we were looking for a solution, we wanted something cloud-based. Even though we have an office at our premises in London, we try to keep everything, from our printers to our Wi-Fi network to our applications, all cloud-based. So we wanted a secure access solution that was fully cloud-based, for one, and then after looking online and doing comparisons, Perimeter 81 came out at the top.”

Seamless Network Visibility

For Pollinate, the importance of complete network visibility and monitoring of their employee's access and network activity is a top priority. To stay on top of their network, since adopting the Perimeter 81 solution, they've implemented the Azure Sentinel integration for their network monitoring and visibility needs.

“We are constantly running security monitoring on our environments and when we implemented the Perimeter 81 platform, we easily integrated Azure Sentinel,” said Atere. “It has helped us to send a login from Perimeter 81 via Azure Sentinel and that's one of the key reasons we decided to go with Perimeter 81, as not a lot of providers offered that.”

The simplicity of Perimeter 81's Azure Sentinel integration has been a game-changer for Atere and his team. “It was one of the most seamless integrations we have implemented. In the past, we had projects to improve the visibility of the applications being accessed through Azure Sentinel and some of them are very difficult to integrate. But with Perimeter 81, it was pretty simple. With just a few clicks and some instructions, the connector was activated simultaneously in Perimeter 81 and Azure. We connected our logs going through it and it was much easier than some of our applications we have struggled with previously.”



Deployed secure gateways worldwide in under 2 days



Significant reduction in monthly hours of manual work



Increased security confidence in their employees

“The Perimeter 81 solution has been pretty simple to scale. We just switched our original subscription to an Enterprise plan to increase the number of licenses and to be able to accommodate the additional demand, and it's been a smooth process.”



Single Sign-On Integration

Like many fintech companies that are dealing with confidential documents and data daily, secure authorized access is important to Pollinate. Single sign-on has helped Pollinate's IT team feel more secure when their users are authenticating their identity via the Perimeter 81 application.

"Perimeter 81's single sign-on integration has been very seamless and flexible for our users. In the past, we had some problems with our users who didn't use a single sign-on and they are now experiencing a more secure authentication process," shared Atere. "The flexibility and strength of Perimeter 81's single sign-on integration have been a major plus as an IT manager. It gives me peace of mind knowing our users are not using the same password to gain access to different applications."

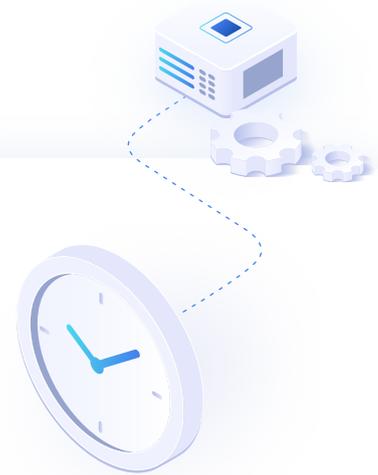
The Solution: Automated and More Scalable Network Security

Fast Gateway Deployment

When deciding to adopt the Perimeter 81 solution, quick and efficient deployment of gateways was a key factor for Pollinate and they are happy with the deployment time within the Perimeter 81 platform. "We experienced a smooth deployment as each gateway took around one hour to deploy. My team successfully deployed our four gateways with Perimeter 81 in under two days. Compared to our last network security solution, the deployment walkthrough was similar but nowhere near the functionalities that we get with Perimeter 81," remarked Atere.

Security Confidence

In today's increasing attack environments, when it comes to safeguarding the organization against cybercriminals, every organization needs to have the right amount of confidence in their employees. In Pollinate's case, their security confidence in their employees has increased tremendously since implementing the Perimeter 81 solution. "We have increased confidence in our security due to our employees having security options at their disposal," said Atere.



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“We know exactly where they’re coming from and that their connections are filtered for a particular gateway, which is especially important because they work with many banks so compliance is a top priority. Perimeter 81 ticks all the boxes for us when it comes to security confidence with our employees.”

Time Savings

When looking for solutions to replace outdated network security products or methods, IT managers and management typically consider how much time a new solution can save. In Pollinate’s case, Perimeter 81 has helped save time and headaches in automating IP whitelisting and providing secure network access. “We have saved a lot of time, probably many full days of work, since using Perimeter 81. Before we needed to whitelist each user’s IP address on different resources daily depending on their home connections. So at any point, a user could have access one day and then the IP changes, and the next day, they don’t have it. Perimeter 81 has saved me and my team hours of work,” remarked Atere.

Easy To Scale

Working with Perimeter 81 has allowed Pollinate to rapidly scale its security in a matter of hours. Since implementing Perimeter 81, Pollinate has increased the size of its account by over 250%. Atere shared: “ The Perimeter 81 solution has been pretty simple to scale. We just switched our original subscription to an Enterprise plan to increase the number of licenses and to be able to accommodate the additional demand, and it’s been a smooth process.”

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About Perimeter 81

Perimeter 81 has taken the outdated, complex and hardware-based traditional network security technologies, and transformed them into a user-friendly and easy-to-use software solution — simplifying network security for the modern and distributed workforce. Since its founding, Perimeter 81 has quickly gained traction in the Secure Access Service Edge (SASE) and Network as a Service market, and is transforming the way companies consume cyber and network security. Our clients include Fortune 500 businesses and industry leaders across a wide range of sectors, and our partners are among the world’s foremost integrators, managed service providers and channel resellers.

