

MULTI-LAYER PROTECTION AGAINST UNKNOWN THREATS

Lomma Municipality strengthens its defense against
Zero Day-attacks and harmful content with
F-Secure Elements for Microsoft 365

Customer Name:
Lomma Municipality

Industry:
Public sector

Country:
Sweden

Solutions from F-Secure:
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Microsoft 365](#)



Lomma Municipality, located on the southern coast of Sweden with 1700 employees, has large amounts of personal data to handle. Their heavy email flows via Microsoft 365 platform were letting malicious content through. Recovering from incidents took its toll on their IT department. Another layer of protection was needed – and they found it in the cloud native solution from long-time cyber security partner F-Secure.

THE ZERO DAY ATTACK: A WAKEUP CALL

Over the past 11 years, Lomma Municipality has used various client protection solutions from F-Secure to protect the municipality against various types of cyber-attacks. To strengthen their defenses against targeted cyber threats, something traditional anti-virus solutions simply can't do, Lomma Municipality deployed F-Secure's Rapid Detection & Response solution, which uses automated sensors and machine learning to analyze users and alert them about deviant behavior patterns.

Before deploying F-Secure's RDR solution, Lomma Municipality was subjected to a Zero Day attack. Municipal employees clicked on a link contained in an email, not realizing that the link carried malicious code. The malicious code spread throughout the IT-system by exploiting unknown vulnerabilities in the municipality's software. The breach was not detected by the municipality's existing client protection at the time and caused significant damage, a costly and time-consuming affair to recover from.

In light of this, the municipality, led by IT and service manager Patrik Flensburg, decided to further strengthen its defenses – especially against Zero Day attacks, which

have become increasingly common in recent years. These attacks can result in sensitive and valuable data ending up in the wrong hands, if the intrusion is not detected and mitigated at an early stage. In addition they can require time consuming and costly management and restoration afterwards.

These were the main challenges for the municipality:

- A heavy email workload of 1700 employees
- Large amounts of crucial personal data
- An increased number of Zero Day attacks
- Malicious content getting through the built-in protection of Microsoft 365

"We realized that we needed to add new layers of protection to our existing client protection as hackers constantly develop their attack methods."

Patrik Flensburg, IT and Service Manager

THE SEARCH FOR AN EFFORTLESS CLOUD-BASED SOLUTION

Lomma Municipality needed to strengthen its protection, with a solution that would be easy to manage in the cloud. After testing several different solutions, they chose F-Secure's new cloud-based and future-ready solution F-Secure Elements for Microsoft 365. It strengthens the municipality's defense against Zero Day attacks as well as its' Microsoft 365 protection, as the built-in protection in Microsoft 365 does not safeguard all the properties that users populate it with.

"Having a solution that can easily control all incoming emails is extremely important. Not least considering the statistics that show 94 percent of all malware spreads that way."

Patrik Flensburg, IT and Service Manager

F-Secure Elements for Microsoft 365 automatically controls the content of all emails and links sent to the municipal employees' email addresses and flags them for any anomalies that break the pattern. Every part of the email is scanned, and the system responds immediately. If it detects a file with a malicious behavior it places that file in a sandbox environment - a virtual environment where suspicious objects are quarantined

and executed, to determine how they behave and whether they are malicious or should be allowed to pass through. The system also detects and responds to emails with possible phishing behaviors, as well as ransomware threats. "When F-Secure Elements for Microsoft 365 was launched, we felt, after testing the solution, that it was an affordable, comprehensive and user-friendly product that suited our needs very well", says Patrik Flensburg.

TIME AND MONEY SAVED – NO MORE MALICIOUS CONTENT

In the first two months since the system was deployed, it scanned four million emails, of which 51 objects and 104 web addresses were identified as malicious and flagged. The system selected 626 events, such as emails, calendar invitations, contacts, Outlook groups, etc. and placed them in the sandbox environment to be tested during these first two months.

"This new solution has clearly increased the efficiency of our work which has saved us both time and money. Before, we sometimes had to spend time dealing with the harmful effects and restoration after malicious emails, such as phishing or ransomware emails, had been opened," Patrik describes and continues: "We now have a complete solution that guarantees that no malicious emails enter the system."

Key benefits for Lomma Municipality:

- Time and money saved
- Comprehensive and easy to manage cloud native solution
- Automated discovery of previously unseen threats such as phishing emails, ransomware content and Zero Day attacks
- Faster response to emerging threats

"Knowing that our system controls all emails before they are let through means that I can now sleep well at night."

Patrik Flensburg, IT and Service Manager

**Email has been, and still is, the No. 1 attack vector.
Protect your Microsoft 365 against advanced threats.**

Get your free trial today

ABOUT F-SECURE

Nobody has better visibility into real-life cyber attacks than F-Secure. We're closing the gap between detection and response, utilizing the unmatched threat intelligence of hundreds of our industry's best technical consultants, millions of devices running our award-winning software, and ceaseless innovations in artificial intelligence. Top banks, airlines, and enterprises trust our commitment to beating the world's most potent threats.

Together with our network of the top channel partners and over 200 service providers, we're on a mission to make sure everyone has the enterprise-grade cyber security we all need. Founded in 1988, F-Secure is listed on the NASDAQ OMX Helsinki Ltd.

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