



CASE STUDY: The Décor Corporation

Iconic Australian designer and manufacturer Décor relies on partner IPsec to act as their “de facto” IT Security team providing solutions and advice



Employees	100
Founded	1958
Headquarters	Melbourne
Locations	3
Market Vertical	Consumer urables
URL	www.decor.com.au

Executive Summary

Configuration of IT security safeguards is a demanding task that requires highly trained practitioners. The discipline of Information Security is in a state of constant flux: adversaries are anonymous and often lack a clear motive as to what directs their actions. Threats are present everywhere driven by vandalism, activism, and criminal intent. No other learning curve is as demanding as absorbing the vast body of knowledge required to protect digital assets. Décor Corporation’s IT professionals understand this problem and readily acknowledge sourcing these skills from partner IPsec offers a much better return on their security budget. By removing this demanding burden, Décor’s IT Department can focus on realising greater value for the business through productivity gains and technology enablement. IPsec act as Décor’s “de-facto” IT Security team ensuring certified engineers can execute complex projects and provide strategic guidance that delivers a better security posture for the organisation.

Client Profile

The Décor Corporation recently celebrated more than half a century of innovation and manufacturing success. Located in the balmy foothills of Melbourne’s Dandenong ranges, the iconic designer and home-wares manufacturer creates products that sustain their market leading position. The company holds thousands of patents and has received more than 450 awards that recognise their design pre-eminence. New York’s Museum of Modern Art (MOMA) have Décor’s Insulated 2-Bottle Wine cooler on permanent display, a source of great pride for the diligent workers employed by the company. Décor’s design philosophy values aesthetics and originality coupled with a deep understanding of the needs of their global customers. In recognition of their creativity and ingenuity, Décor was awarded the Prince Philip Prize for Australian design further cementing their market leadership status.

- IPsec acts as Décor Corporation’s “de-facto” IT Security department
- Collaborating with IPsec delivers more effective security safeguards at a lower cost than retaining the internal resources to fulfil this critical business need
- IPsec act as a trusted adviser providing consultation and knowledge transfer that ensures greater protection of Décor’s digital assets
- Décor’s IT professionals have more time to assist individual business units achieve their goals
- IPsec and Décor collaborate closely developing business cases to support their strategic objectives

“Our role within the Décor organisation is to help our divisions implement technology that enhances our global competitiveness. Partnering with IPsec reduces business risk and allows us to develop business cases that deliver better operational and budgetary returns”

David Mathie

Chief Information Officer - The Décor Corporation

Business Driver

The Décor Corporation owns patents and trademarks worth millions of dollars. Safeguarding this intellectual property was critical to protect the privately held company's market value. The IT department must manage this risk while providing IT services securely to their authorised users. Décor's legacy firewall solution had reached its end-of-life and IPSec were asked to propose a suitable replacement. Only products that provided an intuitive user interface would be short-listed to ensure that additions, moves and changes could be achieved quickly without advanced security skills. Décor's RSA multi-factor authentication application was behind the current revision of software and didn't support the use of smartphones as authenticators. The upgrade would provide the benefit of lowering the purchase cost of tokens and reduce the number of lost hardware fobs. One important project deliverable IPsec had to meet was that the implementation was non-intrusive and transparent to users.

IPSec Business Solution

IPSec recommended Juniper's SRX Firewall to refresh their aging Checkpoint gateway appliance. The replacement unit was built with the latest technology, generations ahead of Décor's existing solution. Overall performance was exponentially faster and management was simplified thanks to a user-friendly administrative interface. IPsec installed the firewall, set the rules and configured the DMZ settings to ensure seamless integration with Décor's existing infrastructure. Phase two of the project was to upgrade the token based authentication system software. Each software revision had to be installed in sequence: there was no inter-generation upgrade path to circumvent this process. Where possible, hardware fobs were replaced with soft-tokens that were installed on Décor employee's smartphones. To round out the project, security policies were updated and staff received training on the correct operation of the new application and given a brief skills refresh to improve mobile phone security.

Summary

Décor solved a problem common to many organisations with fewer than 250 employees. The IT department freely admits they are not security experts, believing their role is to focus on providing value to the business by streamlining and tuning systems and processes. Employing a full time IT Security expert couldn't be justified whereas partnering with IPsec to share problems, exchange knowledge and collaborate on strategy and execution made economic and operational sense. Décor's security goal was to build a rock solid security platform that IT staff could easily administer and that integrated with their existing investment in RSA multi-factor authentication. The project has provided an adaptable framework that easily integrates with new technology that contributes materially to improving Décor's bottom line. Ensuring that Décor's intellectual property is vigilantly protected is a burden shared with the IPsec security team. Regular knowledge transfers are scheduled and further projects are in the early planning stages to ensure the highest security levels are maintained.

Services

- Install and configure Firewall, DMZ and audit and transfer firewall rules
- Upgrade RSA software to support smartphone software tokens
- Replace Trend Micro endpoint protection with Sophos to support easier enterprise management
- Develop a security roadmap in readiness for proposed business initiatives

Products

- Juniper SRX Firewall
- RSA token based Multi-Factor authentication
- Sophos Enterprise Endpoint Security

"Replacing our perimeter security safeguards has saved us countless hours of administrative overhead annually"

David Mathie

Chief Information Officer - The Décor Corporation



About Us

IPSec specialise in protecting your information assets and mitigating security risks. Our team of highly skilled professionals design, implement, audit, and manage every aspect of your information security environment. By applying industry best practice to business processes, IPsec offer unrivalled service levels that protect your organisation and improves your overall security posture.

