

Damart-Somfy Group gives new life to a critical Oracle database with Blue Lane PatchPoint.

Damart-Somfy Group is the holding company responsible for coordinating the Damart and Somfy corporations, two leading European enterprises. Damart is a manufacturer of high quality apparel while Somfy manufactures automated residential and commercial security products. The Damart-Somfy Group provides IT services for both enterprises.

The Issue: The Damart-Somfy Group's (DSG) Chief Information Security Officer has to deal with a tricky problem: he has to ensure that an entire software package runs smoothly without updating it or interrupting its operations. The problem with regard to DSG's information system is an older database that runs Oracle® 8.1.7. Although the database has performed reliably since 2000, the vendor stopped supporting it in 2003. "I can't migrate to a new version if I don't know how it would impact my business application. Not only is this critical, but I am also legally bound to hold on to all information until 2010," explained Daniel Nunez, DSG's CISO. Because it is a large and critical application Nunez must protect it for the next several years, as its vulnerabilities become known, also knowing that it can affect the server's entire stack of applications. "The machine runs Solaris® 8 with an old version of Sendmail®," Nunez continued.

Solution: By installing the Blue Lane PatchPoint® MG/250, DSG immediately solved the problem of having to secure an older Oracle database: "Thanks to Blue Lane, I'm no longer concerned with this system. It'll end its useful life without any problems while remaining perfectly usable. It is protected as if it had been served by the most advanced current security patch program," Nunez said proudly. Furthermore, as it is placed in front of the server, the PatchPoint similarly protects the Solaris 8

application system and the old Sendmail system that has been installed on it. The information security officer appreciates all this stating: "It's a real benefit: I'm not wasting any more time having to deal with an old machine on its last legs."

But the solution's appeal does not end there: in fact, DSG's entire information system benefits from the protection provided by PatchPoint. "It allows me to optimise the way security patch programs are applied to other systems: I can test them just as I like on my preproduction architecture and install them only when I have some guarantee that they won't ruin anything," the Security Chief concluded. For Navixia, DSG's partner for this operation, these benefits simply reflect sheer good sense: "The PatchPoint solution addresses a real, current business issue. We are delighted to have provided DSG with an automated solution that can remove that thorn from its foot," Claude Krahenbuhl, CEO of Navixia, said happily.