NEQUI STRENGTHENS SECURITY POSTURE, IMPROVES AGILITY WITH A SOFTWARE-DEFINED PERIMETER

Innovative FinTech provider implements Appgate SDP to overcome legacy VPN limitations, enhance user experience

Background

Founded in 2016, Nequi is a 100% digital financial platform with about 9 million users in Colombia. Using the innovative Nequi app, users can conveniently manage their money from their cellphones without costs or commissions

Challenges and Requirements

In the words of Herbert Gomez, Nequi's CTO, the company wanted "to break free of the paradigms" of VPNs and "offer security at a level of precision and granularity never seen before."

Nequi had encountered VPN limitations that impacted security, hindered flexibility and disrupted user experiences. In particular, the company's VPN created immense complications for its hybrid mix of on-premises, off-premises and SaaS environments. And the all-or-nothing access of its VPN conflicted with Nequi's desire to build and maintain a strong security posture and to comply with international standards.

Solution

After an evaluation process, Nequi chose Appgate SDP, an industry-leading ZTNA solution. Getting up and running with Appgate SDP was "extremely simple," taking "no longer than a couple of hours." And the contrast with the VPN was clear immediately, with Gomez noting that, "The implementation of the solution on our team's devices was also really simple with none of the friction we used to have with the VPNs."

After deployment, Appgate SDP:

- Guaranteed secure access to the organization's critical resources through encrypted tunnels
- Allowed creation of profiles with more granular access to resources and linked to user roles and privileges through micro-segmentation
- Established controls based on time, location, user device, operating system and whether or not the device had antivirus protection in place
- Enabled implementation two-factor authentication for the first time, further securing access the organization's most vital resources
- Monitored and logged which user accessed which resource and from what location, so Nequi could better understand and audit employee access
- In short, Appgate SDP allowed Nequi to achieve its goals—quickly, easily and completely.

Here's how Gomez summarized the experience: "We've been able to improve the implementation of access policies thanks to Appgate SDP, which allowed us to overcome all the challenges associated with access policies for on-premises, off-premises and SaaS environments, while complying with international security standards and ensuring the security of our work teams."

INDUSTRY
Financial services

USE CASES
Cloud migration
Remote access
Secure DevOps

CHALLENGES
Hybrid environment with on-premises, off-premises and SaaS environments
Highly regulated industry, subject to international security standards
Very specific user roles and access needs
Experienced limitations with existing VPN

BENEFITS
Improved overall security posture
Guaranteed secure access to the organization's critical resources
Enabled implementation of two-factor authentication for the first time
Detailed logs for increased visibility and insights to help improve overall security posture

"We managed to break free from the use of VPNs and offer security at a level of precision and granularity never seen before. Thanks to Appgate SDP, we were able to increase security for our work environment in a simple and user-friendly way that allows our employees to work at any time and from any geographic location."

Herbert Gomez, Chief Technology Officer, Nequi

About Appgate

Appgate is the secure access company. We empower how people work and connect by providing solutions purpose-built on Zero Trust security principles. This people-defined security approach enables fast, simple and secure connections from any device and location to workloads across any IT infrastructure in cloud, on-premises and hybrid environments. Learn more at appgate.com