

The Organization

The University of Northampton/
Portfolio Innovation Centre

The Challenge

- Increase the speed of connection and protection as business scales from 15 to 45 business units
- Increase range of services whilst reducing complexity and cost of management
- Deploy wireless and secure remote access for tenants using a wide range of laptops and appliances

The SonicWALL Solution

- The SonicWALL NSA 3500 in High Availability mode to provide uninterrupted gateway security services
- SonicWALL SSL VPN 2000 to provide secure Clean VPN clientless access, regardless of location
- SonicWALL SonicPoint-Ns for secure Clean Wireless WLAN

The Results

- Allows new tenants to gain secure immediate access
- Entire network is now protected by Deep Packet Inspection
- Tenants are now able to gain access from remote locations
- The entire solution is now simpler and more cost effective to manage

The University of Northampton provides undergraduate, postgraduate, professional and doctoral programs for 10,000 students in the heart of England, both online and on campus. Awarded full university title and research degree awarding powers in 2005, the University plans to increase its student body by 20% by 2010, and double income received from research and knowledge transfer activities.

In pursuit of the Knowledge Transfer agenda, the University decided to expand its Portfolio Innovation Centre. The Centre merges technology, resources and services to support the growth of the Creative Economy in Northamptonshire.

The challenge: Treble Capacity to Extend Access

Previously, the University serviced 15 office units using a single ADSL line and a SonicWALL PRO 1260.

“The Centre needed to treble capacity to provide secure Internet access to 45 micro-business units,” said Wendy Nikolaidis, Centre Manager at the Portfolio Innovation Centre, University of Northampton.

To assist in this challenge, Nikolaidis sought the assistance of The Oxford Knowledge Company, who advised upgrading to a SonicWALL® Network Security Appliance (NSA) 3500 in order to provide greater capacity, performance and ease of segmentation.

The solution: the SonicWALL™ NSA 3500

Nikolaidis chose the NSA 3500 in order to combine a large range of services onto a single appliance, thereby reducing the complexity of the solution and easing management burden. She also added a secondary NSA 3500 in High Availability mode to ensure uninterrupted performance.

“The NSA 3500 offered a higher level of protection than any of the other vendor products we considered,” said Nikolaidis. “Whilst many competitors offer anti-virus scanning, none offer the breadth and depth of protocol support provided by SonicWALL. Unlike competitive products, including the Firebrick, the NSA 3500 provides fourth-generation capability and integrated wireless management.”

The SonicWALL® NSA 3500 is a next generation Unified Threat Management (UTM) firewall, utilizing a breakthrough multi-core hardware design with four cores and six Gigabit Ethernet interfaces to deliver real-time internal and external network protection without compromising network performance. The NSA 3500 combines high-speed intrusion prevention, file and content inspection and powerful application firewall capabilities with an extensive array of advanced networking and configuration flexibility features in an accessible, affordable platform that is easy to deploy and manage in a wide variety of environments. The SonicWALL PortShield feature enables easy configuration of switch ports into separate contexts, providing protection from traffic on the WAN and DMZ, and devices inside the network.

University of Northampton Case Study

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Centre Manager at the Portfolio
Innovation Centre
University of Northampton

SonicWALL Benefits

- Next-generation Unified Threat Management (UTM)
- SonicWALL PortShield
- SonicWALL Application Firewall
- SonicWALL Clean Wireless
- SonicWALL Clean VPN

"Having trebled in size the centre now covers three floors, we decided to build on the proven success of the SonicWALL solution, especially the PortShield architecture," said Nikolaidis.

"The solution allows 45 micro-businesses and their 100-users to securely access one physical network whilst being protected from one another, with no changes required to the internal network of each tenant."

Nikolaidis also implemented a wireless local area network (WLAN) for tenant and guest access by deploying SonicWALL® SonicPoint-N™ access point devices. The SonicPoint-N devices combine 802.11n and 802.11a/b/g wireless management with the NSA 3500 to flexibly extend comprehensive security across the wireless network, creating a Clean Wireless environment. Clean Wireless delivers the innovative dual protection of both high-speed secure wireless and high-performance UTM required to secure the wireless connection, and inspect and encrypt the traffic flowing over the wireless network.

In addition, Nikolaidis added secure remote working capabilities with a SonicWALL SSL-VPN 2000 appliance. The SSL-VPN 2000 delivers a powerful, easy-to-use and cost-effective secure remote access solution that requires no pre-installed client software and utilizes a standard Web browser. Combined with the NSA 3500, the solution creates a Clean VPN environment, which delivers the innovative dual protection of both SSL VPN and high performance UTM required to both protect the integrity of the VPN and secure the integrity of the VPN traffic.

"The SSL-VPN 2000 is easy to deploy and goes through firewalls very easily," said Nikolaidis. "It is also fully integrated and easy to manage."

The result: Single Solution for Network Infrastructure Security

"The NSA 3500s have enabled us to continue supporting our growing number of tenants cost effectively, and the solution is working like a dream," said Nikolaidis. "It has allowed tenants to move in and out of the building very quickly and easily, access the network to commence work immediately."

The solution has enabled Nikolaidis to provide an entire network infrastructure for Centre clients so that they can walk in, plug into an Ethernet wall socket, power up and easily access the network and Internet. By providing a single solution, SonicWALL has reduced the Centre's ongoing support costs, by eliminating the need to support 45 ADSL connections. Nikolaidis is also pleased with the results of her SonicPoint-N implementation.

"The SonicWALL Clean Wireless solution caters for the fact that there is no single user directory for authentication or authorization and no guarantee that hardware will be compliant with the latest wireless standards," said Nikolaidis.

The future: Scalability and Control

"The SonicWALL solution gives us future scalability by allowing us to control access to different categories of web sites on a user by user or company by company basis," said Nikolaidis.

The SonicWALL ViewPoint reporting will allow Nikolaidis to see who is using the most bandwidth on the network. Additionally, the SonicWALL Application Firewall feature will help the University control access and throttle bandwidth demands. For example, BBC iPlayer will be restricted bandwidth during core business hours.

"SonicWALL gives the University complete peace of mind," said Nikolaidis.

SonicWALL's line-up of comprehensive protection



NETWORK
SECURITY



SECURE
REMOTE ACCESS



WEB AND E-MAIL
SECURITY



BACKUP
AND RECOVERY



POLICY AND
MANAGEMENT

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