



The Organization

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The Challenge

- Reliable and Cost-Effective Network Security and Secure Remote Access

The SonicWALL Solution

- SonicWALL E-Class Network Security Appliance (NSA) E7500
- SonicWALL Aventail E-Class Secure Remote Access (SRA) EX7000
- SonicWALL Comprehensive Gateway Security Suite (CGSS)
- SonicWALL Clean VPN

The Results

- Ease-of-deployment
- Ease-of-management
- Greater reliability
- Enhanced Security
- Security consolidation
- Lower cost of ownership

CGS, LLC®, is a leading provider of high technology and hosting solutions, delivering world-class services to a diverse clientele that ranges from successful startups to Fortune 100 organizations in Security, Finance, Call Center, Government and other sectors. Providing both hosting and managed services, CGS operates a multi-tier network supporting Web, email, and software-as-a-services (SaaS) traffic, as well as encrypted traffic to file servers and back-end applications.

The challenge: Reliable and cost-effective network security and remote access

“Since we are a hosting facility, our primary challenges are physical denial-of-service and brute force attacks from outside third parties,” said Terry Rossio, CTO at CGS, “as well as maintaining data integrity for our customers.”

Previously, CGS had deployed another manufacture’s appliance, but had encountered problems with performance and reliability.

“We have had three major outages,” said Rossio. “The systems would just completely lock up hard. It was always a firefight to troubleshoot. Unfortunately, each lock up resulted in a ‘hard reset’ which caused the log files to be erased, making the trouble shooting cycle to be mute.”

“With our current solution, when we used active/active mode on the firewall, we would lose our VPN capabilities,” said Rossio. “Also, our customers are running on a very mixed hardware platform, so using a fat client for VPN connectivity was hard to deploy and manage.”

To select a replacement, Rossio engaged the assistance of SysIntegrators, LLC, a longstanding SonicWALL Gold Medallion Partner.

“We have worked with SysIntegrators on numerous instances in the past and have a very good working relationship with them,” said Rossio.

After evaluating a number of solutions to meet the requirements of CGS, Deepak Thadani, President of SysIntegrators suggested that a consolidated SonicWALL® solution could provide fewer points of failure than a comparable Cisco® solution, while still delivering exceptional performance. As a proof of concept, SysIntegrators had CGS run demo units of the SonicWALL E-Class Network Security Appliance (NSA) E7500 through a battery of tests. Under simulated loads, the demo device delivered up to 1.2 gigabyte average throughput in active/standby mode, while running the full SonicWALL Comprehensive Gateway Security Suite (CGSS)—featuring Gateway Anti-Virus, Anti-Spyware, Intrusion Prevention Service and Application Firewall—with no degradation in performance. Based upon these preliminary results, Rossio anticipated average throughput in the 2-gigabyte range once deployed in active/active mode.

“I was thoroughly impressed with the SonicWALL NSA E7500’s throughput while handling content filtering, anti-virus and other services,” said Rossio. “We were impressed with the thoroughness of the engineering. From fit and finish, to performance and features, Sonicwall met and in most cases exceeded our expectations. All with a capital investment much lower than our current solution, and less points of failure.”



CGS, LLC Case Study

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*-Terry Rossio
CTO
CGS*

SonicWALL Benefits

- Comprehensive gateway security
- Breakthrough performance
- Active/Active High Availability
- Clientless SSL VPN



The solution: SonicWALL NSA E7500 and SonicWALL Aventail E-Class SRA EX7000

As the flagship product of the E-Class NSA family, SonicWALL has engineered the NSA E7500 to be the most scalable, reliable, and highly performing multifunction threat appliance in its class. The SonicWALL NSA E7500 protects against a vast spectrum of network attacks using parallel performance 16-core architecture for unprecedented ultra-high-speed threat protection, reliability and scalability. The NSA E7500 empowers administrators with a set of customizable Application Firewall tools for precise control and inspection of enterprise network traffic.

CGS has deployed the SonicWALL NSA E7500 solution at the network edge between Edge BGP Switches and an Internal Aggregation Network, to act as the gatekeeper into CGS clients' environments running internally at its data center, and will migrate all remaining inbound and outbound customer traffic off the ASA.

To enhance VPN capabilities, CGS has deployed a SonicWALL Aventail® E-Class Secure Remote Access EX7000 clustered in high availability mode. The SonicWALL Aventail SRA EX7000 is a clientless SSL VPN solution that delivers secure, easy-to-manage remote access control for the mobile enterprise, supporting up to 2,000 concurrent users from a single appliance. The SRA EX7000 increases user productivity and maximizes IT control by providing authorized access to any application from a broad range of cross-platform devices. Inbound and outbound VPN traffic also gets filtered through the SonicWALL NSA E7500, providing a SonicWALL Clean VPN environment.

"We use the SonicWALL Aventail SRA EX7000 to provide VPN tunnels into a customer's environment in our data center from almost every platform out there," said Rossio. "Now, no matter where our customer is located, or what computer they are working on, they always have access to their resources, securely."

The result: Performance, protection and peace-of-mind

"With SonicWALL, we are able to handle more customers, at a significantly lower cost of ownership than with our current solution," said Rossio. "I was able to consolidate the features of nine appliances using just four SonicWALL devices."

Both security and administrative productivity have increased through centralized administration and automated signature updates.

"The SonicWALL interface is probably the easiest and most intuitive that I've used," said Rossio. "It has made it much easier to train our support staff, resulting in a better managed, more secure environment."

Remote customers have responded positively to the SRA EX7000 clientless access, as well as device access based on Active Directory group policy.

The future: Secure, scalable growth

Currently, CGS supports approximately 300 back-end computing devices, which Rossio intends to expand over ten-fold at eight locations over the next three years.

"Using dedicated VLANs for our internal customers, and the native support of up to 512 Virtual Interfaces on the SonicWALL NSA E7500, we can extend the solution to support upwards of 3500 computers," said Rossio. "We also plan to extend the SRA EX7000 to support up to 2000 nodes. Now, we will bring any new customers online using the SonicWALL solution."

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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