

## ASPCA Barks Up Right Tree with Juniper Networks Firewall and SSL VPN Solution

**Organization:**

American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA)

**Industry:**

Not-for-profit agency

**Challenge:**

Provide reliable network connectivity to Society employees and the general public without sacrificing security or functionality

**Solution:**

Juniper Networks NetScreen firewall and SSL VPN solution

**Benefits:**

- Easy to deploy, monitor and update
- Enhanced access from remote sites
- Increased level of system security and control

Since its founding in New York City in 1866, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) has focused on eliminating animal cruelty and inspiring compassion for all living things. Guided by this commitment, the ASPCA's 300 employees have made great strides over the past 140 years in achieving their goal of eliminating animal cruelty through public education, government advocacy, shelter support and animal medical services and placement.

As the aims of the ASPCA have evolved and expanded over the years, so to have the means of achieving those aims. Originally reliant almost exclusively on public contacts and printed communication to get their message out, the Society now taps into the power of electronic communications to inform, educate and motivate the American public. And, in order to continue to do this effectively, it has to be able to adapt as the technology evolves.

The ASPCA's IT team is the group tasked with maintaining and improving this vital information link, a key component of which is the ability for users in 25 remote locales – mainly small home offices – to access the full range of applications and services available to employees working onsite in the New York City office. So when its previous firewall and virtual private network (VPN) repeatedly failed to maintain a link between servers inside and outside the network system, the IT team immediately began shopping around for a better solution.

**The Solution**

In deciding what sort of firewall and VPN solution was right for their organization, the ASPCA turned to Siwel Consulting, Inc. for advice. As one of the leading networking consultants in the New York area, Siwel specialized in providing total integrated solutions for its clients' business infrastructure needs. Beginning with an in-depth analysis of the ASPCA's technological requirements and current network setup, Siwel worked with the IT team to come up with a solution that could be implemented easily and that would address fully the networking challenges facing

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**John Giantelli**  
Vice President, Information Technology  
ASPCA

the ASPCA's IT team. The answer came in the form of a Juniper Networks firewall and secure socket layer (SSL) VPN solution, ideally suited for secure and reliable connectivity between a main office and any variety of remote locations.

The firewall portion of the Society's solution consists of Juniper Networks NetScreen-50 appliances, which offer a fast, safe and reliable VPN tunnel between the 25 satellite offices and the main New York City office. Embedded antivirus protection provides an additional layer of application-level protection to help eliminate virus threats from the network.

The SSL VPN device installed in the New York headquarters' office is a Juniper Networks SA 1000, which allows authorized users to access the ASPCA's network, database and full email client from any standard Web browser. The SA 1000 contains sophisticated customer extranet features that enable controlled access to differentiated users and groups, without the need for infrastructure changes and software installations.

**Benefits**

Deployment of the Juniper Networks firewall and SSL VPN solution has produced significant benefits for the ASPCA. Installation of the SA 1000 has resulted in a reduction in the amount of time, effort and resources needed to monitor and manage the system. Because deployment and customization of the appliance is carried out from the New York City office using the appliance's built-in installation wizard, there is no need for client-side software deployments or changes to network servers. And once it's up and running, it requires little or no maintenance. As John Giantelli, Vice President of Information Technology, states, "The SSL VPN took only about an hour to set up and in the year since we installed it, we haven't had to touch it once." With the exception of changes to the network policies.

Use of an SSL VPN device also provides ASPCA employees with the ability to access the Society's full range of applications, resources and services from any computer with an Internet connection. The result is vastly improved network flexibility and accessibility for end users and an additional level of network security for the system. Giantelli concluded, "It's as if each of the users is sitting in the New York office, even though they're scattered all over the United States. With the secure VPN tunnel and our double authentication procedure, we can be rest assured that only authorized users are accessing our system."



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