

KOREAN RETAIL CHAIN REDUCES WEB THREATS AND SIMPLIFIES SECURITY MANAGEMENT WITH THE SSG SERIES

Summary

Industry: Fashion and Retail

Challenges: To sustain a stringent level of security across company-wide IT systems, business data and online transactions as the company continues to extend its global IT operations and online business presence.

Selection Criteria: The SSG Series was selected after expert and end user evaluation into the product's threat management capabilities and overall cost-effectiveness.

Network Solution: Juniper Networks SSG Series Secure Services Gateways.

Results: Security breaches have been virtually reduced to zero since deployment, while security management has improved through the SSG Series integrated feature sets.

As a vital component of its alluring youth culture, Korean fashion has been on a worldwide roll in recent years. And Beaucre Merchandising (www.ibeaucre.co.kr) has been both a driver and beneficiary of this tide. The Korean retail chain is a leading light in fashion that caters to the hip and trendy working woman in Korea and China. The company's three flagship woman's apparel labels – on&on, W., and OLIVE des OLIVE – collectively garnered sales of some 130 billion South Korean won in 2006 (USD \$140 million) via 142 stores in Korea, plus 40 more in China.

And the 17-year-old company is geared for more growth. Having announced its retail presence in Taiwan last year, the company now has five stores there with more in the works. It has also recently taken its merchandise onto the Web, and to the global market. Its two-year-old e-shopping mall is now firmly established as a retail portal with rich content and a strong global online presence.

Challenges

Reliant on information technology that both links up its geographically dispersed physical stores and powers its e-shopping mall, Beaucre Merchandising faced daily security threats that emanated from both internal and external networks, as well as from the Internet. It had deployed end-to-end IT systems and middleware in production, design, sampling, fitting, post-production sales, account and inventory management, and this had heightened the business risks associated with rising security threats.

In particular, exposure of its business systems to the Internet and online search portals was bringing unwelcome hacker and malware attention. At risk were internal applications, business data and customers' personal information garnered via the company's online store. "Our legacy firewall platform was becoming inadequate, and we were facing threats that were increasing both in frequency and sophistication," said Kim Jong-ho, General Manager, Computing Division, Beaucre Merchandising.

It was clear, he said, that the company's security efforts had to be stepped up or Beaucre would lose the ability to fully exploit the considerable investments already made in various state-of-the-art sales and business support application infrastructure components.

Solution

In December 2006, following a comprehensive evaluation process that involved expert and end-user tests, Beaucre Merchandising chose the Juniper Networks® SSG Series Secure Services Gateways as its new security platform. Kim said that in the final evaluation the SSG Series won out over other competitive solutions with its superior threat management abilities and overall cost-effectiveness.

The SSG Series is a class of security appliances purpose-built to deliver an ideal mix of performance, security and LAN/WAN connectivity for remote office deployments. In Beaucre Merchandising, the SSG Series serves as a stateful firewall and VPN, as well as protects its internal network from worms, spyware, trojans, and malware through a comprehensive set of Unified Threat Management (UTM) security features. These include intrusion prevention (IPS), antivirus, antispymware, anti-adware, antiphishing, antispam and Web filtering.

The SSG Series now takes security center stage at the Beaucre Merchandising headquarters and Bundang IDC centre in Seoul, where the shopping mall operating server resides.

“We are confident we don’t need to worry about malware like bots and worms now that we have the SSG Series.” -Kim Jong-ho, General Manager, Computing Division, Beaucre Merchandising”

Kim Jong-ho
General Manager, Computing Division, Beaucre

Results

Describing his deployment and usage experience thus far, Kim is especially pleased that there has not been a single system failure and network intrusion incidence since deployment. “We are confident we don’t need to worry about malware like bots and worms now that we have the SSG Series,” he said.

He is also happy to have freed up more time from his day-to-day security management operations. By combining multiple features in a single hardware and integrated management platform, holistic security is now an easier proposition. For his favorite time-saving features in the SSG Series, Kim points to the auto signature update, graphical Web user interfaces and customizable security zones that make it easy to quickly create and enforce flexible network policies and access control.

Next Steps and Lessons Learned

On the immediate front, Beaucre Merchandising plans to harness additional SSG Series features. Kim says that the company is currently focusing on the SSG Series firewall, IPS and antivirus features, but will be turning on more features down the road. Also on Kim’s agenda is to further improve security control by delving more deeply into advanced management features offered through other Juniper Networks products like the Network and Security Manager (NSM), which provides scalable centralized security management for remote locations.

Beyond that, Beaucre Merchandising wants to improve its readiness and response capability to emergency situations. It intends to do this both by training internal staff and leveraging the support provided by Juniper. “We are confident our company can constantly improve on its security capabilities by continually updating the maintenance agreement that we have with Juniper,” Kim says.

About Juniper Networks

Juniper Networks, Inc. is the leader in high-performance networking. Juniper offers a high-performance network infrastructure that creates a responsive and trusted environment for accelerating the deployment of services and applications over a single network. This fuels high-performance businesses. Additional information can be found at www.juniper.net.

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