

JAPANESE-BASED MANUFACTURER IMPROVES NETWORK SECURITY AND OVERALL WAN PERFORMANCE WITH SSG SERIES SECURE SERVICES GATEWAYS

Summary

Industry: Musical Industry
Manufacturing

Challenges:

- Improving security application performance to keep up with rising network traffic demands
- Reducing security management complexities as the company scales up its network coverage and security protection
- Meeting the company objective of a four-hour network-wide recovery window

Selection Criteria: The SSG520M and SSG550M security appliances met Roland's performance, feature, ease-of-management and cost objectives as the company sought to upgrade its existing security infrastructure

Network Solution:

- Juniper Networks SSG520M and SSG550M Secure Services Gateway

Results:

- Both internal and external firewall performance were significantly enhanced
- Security policy control was improved across the company WAN
- The SSG Series single security management interface reduced management complexities and improved the productivity of IT managers
- Roland's requirement to recover from adverse network incidents within four hours was met by deploying a backup SSG520M

Through the use of sophisticated semiconductor and computing technologies to create exciting musical sounds, Roland Corporation has blazed a pioneering trail in the electronic musical instrument industry since it was founded in 1972. The last three decades have seen the Japanese company grow its business by leaps and bounds. Today, Roland caters to a global market through its growing network of domestic and overseas operation facilities, linked by its head office in Hamamatsu.

A culturally ebullient city which lies midway between Tokyo and Osaka, Hamamatsu is the company's key distribution center where products are assembled for delivery to customers. It is also Roland's information nerve center, where a high-performance global WAN connects the company's key business applications to all of its branch offices.

Challenge

Since 1998, Roland had relied on a combination of Juniper Networks® NetScreen security appliances to protect its global WAN and key information systems. Rising data traffic and increased demand for network connectivity, however, had begun to stretch its existing security infrastructure.

In November 2005, the company decided to carry out an exercise to consolidate its servers and revamp its network infrastructure, upgrading to a layered security model that would balance high-performance with robust security. The IT team started by looking at new solutions for firewall protection. "We were using routers with firewall/VPN functionalities as firewall devices and we wanted to find an alternative that offers better performance and more integrated management," said Satoshi Otsuka, group leader of Roland's Information Infrastructure Group.

Roland also needed to tackle the challenge of rising security management complexities resulting from network growth and increased device count. Furthermore, Otsuka added, "firewall appliances often use a confusing mix of different management interfaces, making the total solution more difficult to maintain, especially when security policies must be adjusted." One final key challenge, said Otsuka, was continuing to meet the company objective of being able to recover from any adverse network incidents within a four-hour window.

Selection Criteria

Finding a solution to address these challenges with headroom for future network growth led Roland to Juniper Networks SSG Series Secure Services Gateway of integrated security appliances. That decision, said Otsuka, was a swift one. "Other vendors did not come to mind. We consulted with two trusted system integrators and both recommended Juniper Networks," he said.



Solution

Targeted at deployment in regional and branch offices, Juniper's SSG Series is a new class of security appliances purpose-built to deliver an ideal mix of performance, security and LAN/WAN connectivity. Its Unified Threat Management (UTM) security features offer comprehensive protection from worms, spyware, trojans and malware.

In Roland, Juniper's SSG Series was deployed in a "double-layered" firewall configuration, with an external firewall (Juniper Networks SSG550M Secure Services Gateway) protecting the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) and Internet segment, and an internal firewall [Juniper Networks SSG520M Secure Services Gateway] protecting internal network resources such as email, database systems and other applications residing within Roland's globally-located staff and business subsidiaries.

Prior to upgrading, Roland had been using a router with firewall functionalities to protect all of its network segments.

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Satoshi Otsuka
Leader of Roland's Information Infrastructure Group

Results

With the SSG Series in place, Roland's redesigned network has more than met expectations, reports Otsuka.

First, the increased firewall throughput means that security no longer hamstrings network performance. "Now that we are using a double-layered firewall configuration where external firewall protects against any attacks via Internet while internal firewall focuses on traffic between servers, performance of each firewall

has been maximized," Otsuka says. "It has also made policy control easier than before and the SSG Series brings excellent visibility through its NetScreen Security Manager user interface," he added.

Secondly, managing security is now a more productive exercise for the IT team at Roland. "The entire SSG Series range uses a single management interface which saves our IT staff a considerable amount of time, while significantly reducing our IT management workload," he said. "And it allows us to deploy additional Juniper Networks security appliances in future without learning another user interface," he added.

An added bonus is the fact that the SSG Series uses the same user interface as the NetScreen-5GT, which reduced the learning curve needed for the new platform. Lastly, he said, the company's four-hour network recovery window is easily met by having a back-up SSG520M.

Next Steps and Lessons Learned

In the near future, Roland intends to extend the use of the SSG Series from a firewall appliance to an integrated security, by harnessing the VPN and antivirus features of the SSG Series. Doing so will let the company take advantage of the cost and management benefits in integrating disparate security functionalities under a single platform, says Otsuka. "Right now, we are using another vendor's device for VPN but we are keen to replace it with the SSG Series," he said. "We are also considering managing the systems of our overseas affiliates and subsidiaries from our head office. For that, Juniper Networks global operation will be key for us," he believes.

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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