

AJISEN RAMEN CHINA ENHANCES COMPETITIVE EDGE WITH JUNIPER NETWORKS INTEGRATED SECURITY NETWORK SOLUTION

Summary

Industry: Food and Beverage

Challenge: Provide real-time, high-speed, and secure connectivity between Ajisen Ramen’s headquarters in Shanghai and its branches and outlets in mainland China, Hong Kong, and Macau, in order to enhance access to its ERP system for unified management, purchasing, and distribution.

Selection Criteria: Performance, security, reliability, availability, ease of management.

Network Solution: Juniper Networks ISG1000, J2320 router, SA2000, EX3200 line, NetScreen-5GT, NetScreen-208, Network and Security Manager.

Results: Enhanced network performance, security, stability, and availability; reduced attacks and illegal access to core resources; improved work efficiency in the IT department; reduced communication costs; improved convenience for mobile workers who now have remote access to enterprise systems.

Ajisen Ramen China operates one of the largest chains of casual dining restaurants in mainland China, Hong Kong, and Macau. Since it began operations in Causeway Bay, Hong Kong in 1996, it has expanded its dining concept to 243 outlets in Hong Kong, Shenzhen, Guangzhou, Shanghai, Fuzhou, Dalian, Hangzhou, and Nanjing. Ajisen Ramen also produces packaged ramen noodles, which are sold in more than 6,000 stores in 100 major cities in China.

Challenges

Given the scale of its operations in China, Ajisen Ramen is under constant pressure to reduce management costs, improve productivity, and grow its market share. In response to this, the company looked to enhance its competitive edge by deploying an advanced enterprise resource planning (ERP) system for unified management, purchasing, and distribution. The system would allow the Ajisen Ramen headquarters to oversee the operational and inventory status of its outlets in real time, and to consolidate deliveries from its distribution center. Furthermore, it would allow for complete control over price changes and promotional campaigns, enabling information on promotions to be sent to all outlets simultaneously.

In order to deploy the ERP system successfully, Ajisen Ramen also needed a secure and stable network to ensure the integrity of its systems and the availability of mission-critical applications to employees at its headquarters in Shanghai, as well as its branches and outlets in mainland China, Hong Kong, and Macau.

However, providing real-time, high-speed, and secure connectivity to all these locations presented a challenge due to unevenly developed communication facilities, inconsistent line quality, and the high cost of communications. This was exacerbated by the growing volume of data that was being sent across the network, putting pressure on Ajisen Ramen’s existing network switches.

At the same time, as the company’s operations expanded, its workforce was becoming increasingly mobile. Managers and other business personnel who were out in the field would also need to have remote access to the ERP system.

Selection Criteria

To address these challenges, Ajisen Ramen required an enterprise WAN that would provide secure, efficient, reliable, and cost-effective data communications between its headquarters, branches, and outlets. It also needed a highly efficient core switching network that would overcome existing limitations in its network switches and ensure quick, secure, and reliable transmission of data. The core switches had to be able to partition the internal VLAN and manage the quality of service (QoS) for Internet traffic as well as VPN access to the ERP servers.

Security was another key consideration. Ajisen Ramen required a firewall solution that could handle access control and block attacks against critical internal resources.

In addition, to address the requirements of its mobile workforce, Ajisen Ramen needed a remote access solution that could be implemented securely and cost effectively—without the need for a client-side installation—and which could support access control policies based on mobile user identification.

Finally, ease of management was another important consideration. The solution had to allow remote centralized security management for all the equipment, together with a GUI that would help simplify management tasks.

“Juniper’s integrated security network solution fully satisfied our requirements. The solution is easy to deploy and manage, and has improved work efficiency in the IT department while minimizing reliability issues.”

Michael Wang
IT Director,
Ajisen (China) Holdings Limited

Solution

Based on these requirements, Ajisen Ramen selected an integrated security network solution comprising Juniper Networks® firewall/IPsec VPN, SSL VPN, and enterprise-level routers and switches.

The IPsec VPN is based on the Juniper Networks ISG1000 Integrated Security Gateway, which is deployed at Ajisen Ramen’s Shanghai headquarters to establish the main VPN tunnel to its branches and stores.

The ISG1000 takes advantage of the fourth generation of ASIC “GigaScreen3” and Juniper’s high-speed RISC processors to provide firewall performance of up to 2 Gbps, and 3 DES IPsec VPN performance of up to 1 Gbps through up to 2,000 VPN tunnels. A separate ISG1000 system is also configured to be the backup firewall and VPN hub at the headquarters, allowing for redundant switching to ensure greater reliability.

At the headquarters, a Juniper Networks NetScreen-208 firewall separates Internet traffic from the IPsec VPN network traffic, making sure that sufficient bandwidth is made available for users accessing the ERP system. This ensures that performance is not compromised and provides complete security protection for the internal network.

At Ajisen Ramen’s branches, Juniper Networks J2320 Services Routers are deployed as the unified access gateway while the Juniper Networks NetScreen-5GT firewall/VPN ensures secure access to servers at the headquarters. The J Series routers run the modular Juniper Networks Junos® operating system, which supports MPLS, IPv6, QoS, and multicasting, as well as security features such as the static firewall and IPsec VPN— without any increase in cost. The NetScreen-5GT allows Ajisen Ramen to set access policy controls to prevent PC terminals at the branches from being used for Internet access.

Ajisen Ramen also selected the Juniper Networks EX3200 line of Ethernet switches as its core LAN switches for the headquarters and branches. The full line-rate forwarding, non-blocking structure design and powerful QoS function of the EX3200 line switches help eliminate bottlenecks and allow the network to handle large increases in data volume.

The EX3200 line of switches also come with easy-to-use management and control tools that allow even non-IT personnel to carry out basic maintenance, ensuring normal network startup and operation. This is important because most Ajisen Ramen branches do not have dedicated IT personnel.

For mobile users, Ajisen Ramen uses the SSL VPN-based Juniper Networks SA2000 SSL VPN Appliance to provide them with convenient and secure remote access to the servers at the headquarters. Ajisen Ramen has also implemented a centralized firewall/VPN management platform using Juniper Networks Network and Security Manager (NSM).

Results

The Juniper Networks integrated solution has met Ajisen Ramen’s requirement for a high-performance, stable, reliable, and secure solution to connect its headquarters to its branches and mobile workforce. “We can set up WAN connections easily and with very low communication costs using the Juniper IPsec VPN solution,” said Michael Wang, IT Director for Ajisen (China) Holdings Limited. “For example, each store can now securely transmit real-time business and inventory data to the headquarters, allowing us to manage our inventory and business issues more effectively.”

At the same time, Juniper’s NSM allows the company’s IT personnel to deploy equipment and batch upgrades quickly and efficiently, and enables them to manage and monitor the VPN from a single platform. This greatly improves overall management efficiency and security, and reduces operational costs in the process. “Juniper’s integrated security network solution fully satisfied our requirements,” said Wang. “The solution is easy to deploy and manage and has improved work efficiency in the IT department while minimizing reliability issues.”

The Juniper Networks firewall/VPN solutions have also improved security levels across the network, reducing the number of attacks on the company’s network as well as blocking illegal access to its core resources. For example, the NetScreen-5GT prevents viruses, worms, and other attacks from entering the enterprise network via terminals at the branches. At the same time, the backup narrowband line feature of the NetScreen-5GT enables the branches to establish a backup connection to the IPsec VPN network via telephone or ISDN line in the event of a sudden broadband failure.

The mobile worker requirements have also been addressed. With the Juniper Networks SSL VPN, any mobile user can use a PC or handheld device equipped with a Web browser to access Ajisen Ramen’s network resources and make use of Web-based resources, remote office features, standard email clients, or other client programs without having to download or install any client software. “Employees out on business calls, as well as partners, can now conveniently access our internal network,” said Wang.

Next Steps and Lessons Learned

With growing use of the ERP system, the company plans to introduce remote access gradually to its suppliers, so that the suppliers can conveniently obtain accurate inventory information and provide Ajisen Ramen with enough goods to ensure the smooth running of its operations.

According to Ajisen Ramen, the deployment of the Juniper Networks EX3200 line of Ethernet switches has also laid a solid foundation for the rollout of integrated applications such as network access control and VoIP in the future.

For More Information

To find out more about Juniper Networks products and solutions, visit www.juniper.net.

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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