JUNIPER NETWORKS SERVES UP SECURE NETWORKING TO ROMANO'S MACARONI GRILL

Summary

Company: Romano's Macaroni Grill

Industry: Food and Beverage

Challenges:

- Build and deploy a new network to support operations after acquisition
- Provide secure, reliable connectivity to more than 180 restaurants
- Support business continuity requirements with secondary network access for restaurants

Selection Criteria: With a clean slate to design a new network, the national restaurant chain needed a secure, high-performance infrastructure.

Solution:

- SRX240 and SRX210 Services Gateways
- Network and Security Manager appliances

Results:

- High-performance, reliable network to support credit card transactions and restaurant operations
- Rapid, trouble-free deployment of a new network to 180 locations
- Meet PCI requirements
- Automated network operations and business continuity

Customers dining at Romano's Macaroni Grill rave about the fresh rosemary bread, the Penne Rustica specialty dish, and the house wine poured on the honor system. The casual Italian restaurant has more than 180 locations across the United States.

Challenges

After the private equity firm Golden Gate Capital acquired a majority share in Romano's Macaroni Grill from Brinker International, the restaurant had to build and deploy a new IT infrastructure—without disrupting operations. This is a lot like changing engines on an airplane flying at 40,000 feet. In a monumental effort, the entire IT infrastructure supporting 15,000 employees needed to be rebuilt—from servers to desktops to networks—and the primary data center needed to be built in Orlando, Florida as business operations continued unabated.

Selection Criteria

Romano's Macaroni Grill had a clean slate to design its new network infrastructure. For a nationwide restaurant, the network is the lifeline to smooth operations, as it is essential to securely process customer credit card transactions and deliver e-mail and other applications to restaurant managers and staff.

Drew Stafford, vice president of IT at Romano's Macaroni Grill, had firsthand experience with Juniper Networks' high-performance, highly reliable firewalls, and chose to standardize on Juniper security for the new network. "We had a bold new vision for the network," says Stafford. "The experience of Juniper Networks in delivering high-performance, secure networks and the economics of the solution have delivered significant business value for Romano's Macaroni Grill."

Solution

Romano's Macaroni Grill now uses Juniper Networks® SRX Series Security Gateways to securely connect more than 180 restaurant locations to its data center.

The SRX Series gateways are high-performance security, routing, and network solutions. They provide high port densities, advanced security, and flexible connectivity in a single, easily managed platform that supports fast, secure, and highly available operations. SRX Series gateways are based on Juniper Networks Junos® operating system, Juniper's proven OS, which delivers security and advanced protection services.

Romano's Macaroni Grill uses the Juniper Networks SRX240 Services Gateway in the data center, and the restaurant locations use the SRX210 Services Gateway. The SRX210 supports up to 850 Mbps firewall, 85 Mbps IPsec VPN, and an 85 Mbps intrusion prevention system (IPS). The SRX240 supports up to 1.5 Gbps firewall, 300 Mbps IPsec VPN, and a 250 Mbps IPS.

In addition, the IT team uses Juniper Networks Network and Security Manager to manage all aspects of the SRX Series deployment, including configuration, network settings, and security and policy management.

Results

"I can sum up Juniper Networks in three words: security, performance, and reliability," says Rich Acevedo, the network engineer at Romano's Macaroni Grill who oversaw the deployment. "The Juniper Networks infrastructure has been reliable, secure, and rock solid."

A nationwide rollout of all new IT is a major undertaking, but Acevedo describes it as "a smooth operation." During the deployment, the company rolled out the new IT infrastructure at three or four restaurants per night. The IT team configured and staged the SRX Series devices, managers' workstations, and other IT solutions, and then shipped them to the restaurants, where a team of consultants did the onsite work.

The new secure network helps Romano's Macaroni Grill meet its Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS) compliance requirements. The SRX Series gateways are used to segment and isolate credit card transactions and other sensitive cardholder data from other traffic on the network.

The IT team uses Junos OS scripts to automate the operations necessary to ensure business continuity. Most restaurants use broadband DSL or cable as a primary connection to the data center. If there is a local network outage, the SRX Series gateway will detect the outage and automatically fail over to the 3G cellular connection so that credit card transactions and other operations are not disrupted.

"The SRX Series runs a Junos OS script. If the script sees the network connection is down, it turns the dialer on, and our VPN tunnels come back online over 3G," says Acevedo.

Although the network team was new to the Junos operating system, they quickly acclimated. Acevedo jumped right in, saying "I learned it myself," without attending Juniper Networks training or boot camps. Acevedo is also a big fan of the ability to roll back previously committed changes on the SRX Series Services Gateways. He admits that he likes using the command-line interface as well.

Next Steps and Lessons Learned

Few organizations have the luxury of building their networks from scratch, and Romano's Macaroni Grill took the opportunity to build a high-performance enterprise and data center network infrastructure that will continue to support the operations of this popular family restaurant into the future.

For More Information

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

About Juniper Networks

Juniper Networks is in the business of network innovation. From devices to data centers, from consumers to cloud providers, Juniper Networks delivers the software, silicon and systems that transform the experience and economics of networking. The company serves customers and partners worldwide. Additional information can be found at **www.juniper.net.**