

Arun District Council secures its IT future

Arun District Council install a centrally managed fully integrated security environment – providing a secure foundation on which to build an e-commerce facility offering reliability, quality and continual service to its customers in line with the Governments IeG vision.

"The Stonesoft StoneGate Firewall provides a true seamless failover of both the hardware and ISP connections, and combined with Enline's expertise and breadth of security knowledge, allowed us to create a centrally managed, fully integrated security environment - on time and within budget. Without exception the consultants at Enline plc delivered to our expectations."

Chris Lawrence, IT Advisor and Assistant Head of Technology, Arun District Council

Arun District is situated in the middle of the West Sussex coastal plain.

The problem – to protect internal computer systems from threats and maintain the integrity of the council's computer systems. To implement a seamless solution capable of exploiting the cost benefits of broadband.

Arun District Council required a secure connection to the World Wide Web. To realise this

objective they needed a security infrastructure that protected the Council's internal computer systems from all external technology based threats and so ensure that the integrity of the Councils computer system was maintained. As they expected more demand and growth via the Internet, there was a real need to constantly evaluate and enhance existing security technologies to ensure maximum productivity.

In order to maximise functionality, one of the key drivers for Arun was to implement resilient systems. Having an e-commerce facility that is always available and reliable would reinforce Arun's reputation for quality, reliability and service to their customers. Therefore the requirement for Arun was identified as the implementation of a scalable firewall solution that can protect internal and DMZ network resources whilst providing the performance required to securely deliver in-house services.

Enline plc has the knowledge and expertise to guide Arun through complex, multi-faceted projects and will work closely with Arun to understand their immediate and ongoing network and Internet security requirements.

When observing defence strategies the common approach and one Enline plc wholly endorse, is to 'Defend in Depth', thus ensuring that security is built upon

many layers and not reliant on one mechanism or technology, nor upon 'standard configurations' of commercially recommended environments.

Enline plc therefore put forward the following main recommendations to Arun:

- Design and Implementation of a resilient firewall architecture to provide a scalable perimeter defence
- Provide a means for secure Virtual Private Network (VPN) connectivity for remote users working from home or remote offices
- Provide an additional layer of security for remote users by implementing a strong two-factor authentication mechanism
- Design and Implementation of an e-mail Content Checking solution to ensure that all incoming and outgoing e-mail, including attachments, are checked for any adverse content
- Design and Implementation of a Web Content Checking solution to address threats associated with Web usage
- Design and Implementation of a Intrusion Detection System (IDS) which will provide a security surveillance solution for the proactive recognition of malicious attacks

The solution – a fully scalable, high security and high performance firewall and VPN solution for business critical applications.

Enline plc has been an IT solutions provider for over 15 years and specialises in the design and implementation of e-service solutions, bringing secure, structured client access to both private and public information sources.

Enline were able to identify the need for any proposed solution to be highly resilient with no single point of failure. Enline presented 3 different options of Firewall, highlighting the pros & cons of each. These included options from Cisco, Check Point and Stonesoft's StoneGate®.

Both the Cisco and Check Point solutions whilst providing the services Arun required did not provide support for ISP link monitoring and therefore no provision for a single point of failover.

StoneGate® provides the first fully scalable, high security and high performance firewall and VPN solution for business critical applications. StoneGate® is the first firewall to provide secure connections and load balancing between multiple ISPs to ensure continuous network connectivity.

Benefits – seamless failover of both the hardware and ISP connection

StoneGate® benefits:

Reinforced firewall: Powerful network security with built-in high availability and load balancing for continuous firewall uptime.

Virtual private network: High availability VPN powered by Multi-Link™ Technology for redundant, always-on Internet connections to multiple Internet service providers (ISP).

High availability functionality: Customisable clustering for always-on load balancing of firewall, Internet connections, VPN, Web servers, and other information services.

Arun have made significant advances in their IEG objectives with Enline assistance in implementing :-

- StoneGate – high availability firewall and VPN with secure connections and load balancing between multiple network providers
- RSA's SecurID and Ace Server – strong two factor authentication to provide an additional level of security for remote users
- Mimesweeper – email and web content checking solutions to address adverse content of emails and address threats associated with web usage
- Websense – web filtering to control and report on the use of Internet through web browsing
- ISS's Intrusion Detection – providing a security surveillance solution for the proactive recognition of malicious attacks

In legislation in line with the Government's IeG vision, the core objectives are simply about delivering an effective, transparent, open and accessible service, to both internal and external (electorate) audiences as well as other partnering agencies.

By delivering the appropriate services in a consistent manner, with due regard for privacy, secrecy and confidentiality; councils may achieve a significant advance in their IeG objectives.

"By recommending StoneGate Clustered firewall we were able to offer Arun a solution that fulfilled all of their critical requirements, with automatic failover and load balancing being just two of the functions available 'out of the box.'"

Mike Nelsey
Managing Director, Enline plc



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