



DC LEISURE MANAGEMENT LTD

SECURITY APPLIANCES

DC Leisure Management Ltd

The Organization:

DC Leisure Management Limited
Otium House
2 Feemantle Road
Bagshot
Surrey GU19 5LL

www.dcleisure.co.uk

The Challenge:

Supply security equipment and services for establishing a secure ADSL-based wide area network that would provide greater stability and manageability than the old ISDN and frame relay circuit WAN.

The SonicWALL Solution:

Two SonicWALL PRO 2040s in high availability pair mode are the latest additions to a secure wide area network comprising nearly 90 SonicWALL units. A mix of SonicWALL units manage the secure communications between numerous leisure sites up and down the country. In addition, a number of employees have been equipped to work from home using Global VPN on their PCs and company laptops.

The Results:

DC Leisure now benefit from a reliable secure communications network which is delivering considerable savings and increased productivity.

SonicWALL is panacea for leading UK leisure management group

With an annual turnover of £65 million, DC Leisure Management (DCLM) is one of the UK's largest operators of public leisure facilities. The company is engaged by more than 30 councils and is responsible for just over 100 leisure facilities around the country.

When Group IT Manager, Phil White, joined the company seven years ago there was no company-wide network linking the various leisure centres which, at that time, numbered 25 to 30 locations. Instead, the IT infrastructure consisted of a series of local area networks (LANs) running leisure management, accounts and payroll systems. A year or so later, the company moved to a centralised accounting system using an ISDN wide area network. In 2003, DC Leisure opted to switch over to ADSL. Although cost savings were a major factor behind this decision there were other benefits too. These included faster communications, remote site management and centralised Internet access. Previously, the only way of providing Internet access had been through basic dial-up accounts but these had to be withdrawn when the company discovered that some employees were misusing resources.

Together with systems integration specialists Panacea Ltd, DC Leisure started to introduce ADSL virtual private networks (VPNs) using SonicWALL security appliances. "We wanted to link all our sites together so we could manage Internet traffic and run central applications over the VPN," says Phil White.

DC Leisure's IT partner Panacea, provided hardware and software support for the IT systems and project managed the new implementations. "For reasons of cost and ease of deployment, Panacea recommended our solution should use SonicWALL appliances to manage Internet access at all sites remotely via VPN tunnels."

To date, SonicWALL has been implemented at almost 90 DC Leisure sites all connected to head office. Roll-out is still continuing and a further dozen or so will be coming on-stream in the coming months. Two PRO units, one at head office and another at the company's Internet Service Provider (ISP) in London, manage the network which mainly comprises SonicWALL branch office firewalls. In addition, two SonicWALL PRO 2040s are about to be installed at head office to form a high availability pair.

SONICWALL

DC Leisure Management Ltd

"We have seen considerable savings year on year compared with our old WAN call charges and frame relay circuits. At the same time the network has developed the flexibility to support remote management and introduce changes in working practices that are allowing our staff to be even more productive."

*-Phil White
Group IT Manager
DC Leisure*

Key SonicWALL Benefits:

Stateful Packet Inspection:

The SonicWALL family of Internet security appliances uses hardened ICSA certified stateful packet inspection technology for greater, more reliable levels of protection.

Flexibility:

Built-in flexibility and scalability means SonicWALL solutions may be easily configured to meet a wide range of business needs.

Services:

SonicWALL's appliances have a powerful, on-board processor which offloads all security and VPN processing from the network. This architecture allows other services such as anti-virus, content filtering and deep packet intrusion prevention to be integrated without impacting on overall network performance.

Management:

SonicWALL is the only vendor capable of managing security appliances and services remotely from a single management console.

Since moving over to ADSL VPN, DC Leisure has experienced a major improvement in network reliability. The fact that a network of this size can be managed by a small team of in-house support staff is a further benefit. "Through the VPN we can connect remotely to systems at any of the sites to apply updates, patches, fixes and so on," continues White. "Learning to configure and add extra tunnels to the appliances involved a short training course. Now we do this ourselves as a matter of course on a daily basis."

The training was also provided by Panacea, who also support the main systems at head office and at the ISP.

DC Leisure is currently considering moving its content filtering and anti-virus systems over to SonicWALL's own content filtering and anti-virus systems next year to take advantage of their automated policy enforcement and updates which can also be managed from a single, central point.

At the start of 2004, DC Leisure decided to introduce homeworking for selected members of staff. About a dozen people have been issued with laptops or have been cleared to connect to the company network using their home PC using SonicWALL's Global VPN client software.

Phil White adds, "We like the fact that by having Global VPN on the client system means they always have the latest anti-virus updates via the VPN whenever they connect. It's a great way to ensure these remote machines never leave the company's control."

"The move to ADSL-based wide area networking has brought a number of benefits. We have seen considerable savings year on year compared with our old WAN call charges and frame relay circuits. At the same time, the network has developed the flexibility to support remote management and introduce changes in working practices such as homeworking that are allowing our staff to be even more productive."

SonicWALL, Inc.

1143 Borregas Avenue
Sunnyvale CA 94089-1306

T +1 408.745.9600
F +1 408.745.9300

www.sonicwall.com

