



The Organization

JFG Systems, Inc.
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The Challenge

Deliver deeply-comprehensive, highly-reliable and centrally-managed network security for hundreds of business networks at gigabit-plus performance

The SonicWALL Solution

- SonicWALL NSA 4500 multi-core network security appliance
- SonicWALL Global Management System (GMS)
- SonicWALL Aventail SSL VPN

The Results

- Real-time Deep Packet Inspect (DPI) and Unified Threat Management (UTM) for all traffic over a widely-distributed network at over-gigabit throughput
- Centralized, single-console management of hundreds of network security devices
- Lower overall power consumption, administrative complexity, and maintenance costs
- Secure remote access from mobile, remote, and branch locations

JFG Systems delivers a full range of services and products to support the technology needs of over a hundred small and mid-sized businesses (SMB) across northern Nevada and California, including commercial real estate, healthcare, and government organizations. JFG's wide array of technology offerings includes infrastructure development, CIO services, remote help desk, and system security. "That's where SonicWALL fits especially well into our business," says Ron Baker, president and technology architect. "We're very security conscious. We try to not to do anything without taking the security ramifications into consideration."

Baker has long relied on SonicWALL® PRO Series network security appliances to provide comprehensive Unified Threat Management (UTM) to his customers. "Because we deliver managed services as a shared risk, network security is paramount to our business," says Baker. "We assign a fixed cost to our clients' system support and maintenance, so we own that responsibility. We can't make that guarantee with malware running on the network."

JFG's business has grown exponentially, as has the amount of network traffic needing to be comprehensively secured. "We have two major factors contributing to our performance demands," says Baker. "First, Internet pipes are getting fatter at lower cost. Second, we increasingly need to pass traffic between security zones at gigabit speeds." Anticipating that JFG would soon reach the limits of its SonicWALL PRO 4060, Baker started evaluating replacement alternatives that could increase security throughput without downgrading network performance.

"I choose solutions that we can support well, and that offer a great value for the dollars spent," says Baker. "We're constantly evaluating the best choice of what's out there to deliver the promises we've made to our customers."

Competitive offerings were unnecessarily complicated. "We found the SonicWALL Network Security Appliance (NSA) 4500 an order of magnitude easier to work with," says Baker, "and the features we wanted were all there."

The next-generation NSA 4500 combines intrusion prevention, anti-virus and anti-spyware protection with application-level firewall controls, as well as advanced routing, stateful high-availability and high-speed VPN. "The SonicWALL solution is mature, strong, and absolutely our best bang-for-buck choice."

The upgraded solution was easy to implement. "We didn't need any additional support to get it running," says Baker. By deploying the NSA 4500, Baker is confident that JFG can scan each packet of its expanding network traffic for all internal and external threats. Because it's built on a high-speed multi-core processing platform, the NSA 4500 enables deep packet inspection in real time, without adversely impacting the performance of mission-critical networks and applications.



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*—Ron Baker,
President/Technology Architect,
JFG Systems*

SonicWALL Benefits

- SonicWALL's next-generation NSA appliances combine intrusion prevention, anti-virus and anti-spyware protection with application-level firewall controls, as well as providing advanced routing, stateful high-availability and high-speed VPN
- SonicWALL NSA appliances use the processing power of multiple cores in unison, providing simultaneous inspection capabilities at dramatically increased throughput, while lowering power consumption
- The award-winning SonicWALL Global Management System (GMS) simplifies configuration, enforcement and management of global security policies, VPN and services from a central location
- SonicWALL Aventail SSL VPN and Clean VPN technology decontaminates remote or mobile traffic before it enters the network, without user intervention

"Like most technology professionals, we're always time challenged. The speed at which the box responds when we go in and look at packet trace or configurations is much better now," says Baker.

Another crucial element of JFG's services is the ability to remotely manage hundreds of network security appliances—including SonicWALL NSA, PRO and TZ Series devices—across a wide geographic area. To manage these devices efficiently and cost-effectively, Baker has implemented the SonicWALL Global Management System™ (GMS™).

Previously, JFG had dedicated two firewall appliances, one to business processes, the other to system management. Duplication of appliances means greater demand on server room HVAC capacity, higher power bills, redundant maintenance, and multiple points of administration.

JFG has eliminated this redundancy and overhead with one NSA 4500 configured for load balanced high-availability. "We've got it down to one device to manage our gateway and maintain our security separations," says Baker. By deploying GMS over the NSA 4500, Baker is able to centralize JFG's network security management, policy control, device monitoring, logging and reporting—from a single console. The stateful high-availability and load balancing features in the appliance's SonicOS 5.0 Enhanced operating system is engineered to maximize network bandwidth and uptime, and ensure that traffic is uninterrupted should a failover occur. Additionally, the NSA 4500 uses the processing power of multiple cores in unison, providing simultaneous inspection capabilities at dramatically increased throughput, while lowering power consumption.

"The way it's built, you don't have a lot of false positives, and you don't have bad things running on your network," says Baker. "Combined with GMS, we can guarantee that firewall's performance, taking the pain from our customer while still maintaining an affordable price structure."

JFG's widely-distributed network also lends itself to the benefits of secure socket layer virtual private networking (SSL VPN). "We advocate that our clients essentially remove the walls of their business, so it doesn't matter where their data or staff is to get work done." Baker has used a SonicWALL Aventail™ E-Class SSL VPN appliance for half a year, with excellent results. "We found it brings more to the table than Juniper." SonicWALL Clean VPN™ technology decontaminates remote or mobile traffic before it enters the network, without user intervention.

With the SonicWALL NSA 4500, GMS, and E-Class SSL VPN providing an integrated platform for JFG's networking security, Baker recommends SonicWALL solutions to his customers. "We believe SonicWALL is built on a better value proposition," says Baker. "The support, the technology, the continual pursuit of improvement, the value for the capital expended—all the pieces are there."

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