"We decided on using a cluster of SonicWall SuperMassive 9400 devices working in active/standby mode in our Warsaw studio."

MARCIN KORZYCKI,
IT SYSTEM ADMINISTRATOR

CD PROJEKT RED®

CUSTOMER PROFILE

Company	CD PROJEKT RED
Industry	Video games
Country	Poland
Employees	Over 500
Website	www.cdprojektred.com

SONICWALL®

CD PROJEKT RED SECURES ITS NETWORK WITH NEXT-GENERATION FIREWALLS FROM SONICWALL

Video games developer deploys firewall solutions across multiple locations in Warsaw, Cracow and Los Angeles to inject cost effective, comprehensive network security into IT infrastructure

Business need

As CD PROJEKT RED has grown its business footprint to employ over 500 game-making professionals from all over the globe, its IT infrastructure also grew, creating challenges across the board on how to comprehensively secure a distributed network. The Polish video game developer, publisher, and distributor based in Warsaw, was compelled to look for a more powerful solution with advanced bandwidth policy options and a firewall platform that combines multiple security technologies. These including app control, bandwidth management, content filtering, gateway anti-virus and intrusion prevention into one cost-effective and easy to manage and control unit without compromising network performance and speed.

Solution

The installation of SonicWall next-generation firewalls (NGFW) deployed at the headquarters in Warsaw including high-performance solutions from the SonicWall NSA 3600 series and the SonicWall SuperMassive 9400 in series, has enhanced CD PROJEKT RED's IT infrastructure security and network bandwidth demands. The deployments provide its over 500 employees with fast, secure and uninterrupted connectivity to the Internet and other critical business applications.

Benefits

- Enterprise-grade protection
- Optimised network speed and performance
- Enhanced bandwidth management
- Protection of data and IT assets
- Fast, secure and uninterrupted Internet connectivity and access to applications
- Less time to manage with all-in-one solution

Solutions at a glance

- Next Generation Firewalls
- Management and Reporting
- Intrusion Prevention
- Global Management System (GMS)

"The SonicWall next-generation firewalls were the best match for our needs. We decided to add-on security services to create an all-in-one solution."

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Poland-Based Video Games Developer Enhances IT Infrastructure Security and Optimises Network Speed

THeadquartered in Warsaw, Poland, CD PROJEKT RED is one of the country's leading video games developer, publisher, and distributor. More than 500 employees work at its head office in Warsaw with branches in Cracow the second largest city in Poland and Los Angeles, California.

Founded in 2002, CD PROJEKT RED is a video game development studio that develops, publishes and distributes video games for personal computers and video game consoles. Collectively, the company's games from The Witcher series – the studio's flagship franchise – have sold over 25 million copies.

For CD PROJEKT RED's 12-member IT department, it is essential that staff working at head office in Warsaw and branch offices in Cracow and Los Angeles have secure access to the company's network, and that they have identical user experiences no matter where they are stationed. All inbound and outbound traffic must be protected against viruses, malware and hacker attacks at all times, and the IT staff needs the ability to monitor traffic and bandwidth use.

Over the past three years, the CD PROJEKT RED IT team utilised a firewall solution that required separate devices for network monitoring and content filtering. When it came time to upgrade its firewall architecture, the team placed a high priority on finding a single box that integrates both capabilities.

Marcin Korzycki, IT System Administrator, CD PROJEKT RED, said the IT team equips and supports the studio and its subsidiaries with a wide variety of IT technology and solutions, which are being used every day across more than 900 devices.

Korzycki said the studio in Warsaw has a secure and stable wireless Wi-Fi network, which uses over 20 access points, as well as an array of fully virtualised servers running Windows and Linux-based virtual machines 24 hours a day and seven days a week.

Korzycki, who has been with CD PROJEKT RED for the past three years now, was responsible for preparing, configuring, testing, and implementing SonicWall solutions into the studio's IT infrastructure.

"The IT department is an essential part of the studio, ensuring everyone is always at the top of their game when it comes to technology and is not hindered by any issues," he said.

Ideal Solution

"We decided on using a cluster of SonicWall SuperMassive 9400 devices working in active/standby mode in our Warsaw studio," Korzycki said.

He said for the studio in Cracow, the team deployed a cluster of SonicWall NSA 3600 devices, also working in active/standby mode. "One of the many reasons we decided on SonicWall devices moving forward was the value these solutions provide, and a number of options readily available for the size of our operation," he said.

As firewalls are an essential part of network security, run-of-the-mill traditional strains tend to be very limiting. In addition, traditional firewalls can also be expensive to operate, mainly because they frequently need to be supplemented with additional security technologies.

With next-generation firewalls, IT administrators are able to combine multiple network security technologies into one solution. They can incorporate the features of traditional firewalls, gateway anti-malware products, intrusion prevention systems, sandboxing and content filtering packages. Additionally, they allow for this range of security services to be installed, configured, deployed and managed as a single unit, which considerably lowers administrative costs.

To protect its network against a variety of threats, CD PROJEKT RED considered several solutions and ultimately selected SonicWall's high-performance next-generation firewalls.

"The solutions from SonicWall included the SonicWall NSA 3600, Secure Mobile Access 500v, Secure Mobile Access 8200v and SonicWall SuperMassive 9400 Series, CD PROJEKT RED opted to deploy firewalls and SMA solution at its headquarters in Warsaw and branch office in Cracow. The company manages the firewalls centrally with SonicWall's Global Management System (GMS) software."

System requirements

Hardware

- SonicWall SuperMassive 9400 Series
- HA Pair of SonicWall NSA 3600's in active/passive mode
- SonicWall Secure Mobile Access 8200v and 500v

Services

- SonicWall Comprehensive Gateway Security Suite

Software

- SonicWall Global Management Systems

SONICWALL®

The SonicWall GMS provides organisations and distributed networks with a powerful and intuitive solution to centrally manage and rapidly deploy SonicWall NGFWs.

Comprehensive security without risking network performance According to CD PROJEKT RED, the SonicWall solutions it has implemented deliver the results it was looking for concerning improving firewall functionalities and more.

With the SSO function and Directory Connector implemented into in the infrastructure, each of the access rules works based on user/domain group. Thanks to this, whenever a user needs to change the workstation or device changes IP address, access rules remain the same regardless of device or subnet.

"What this also does is block unauthorised devices/users from using the network," Korzycki added. App Control is another feature being used in the everyday work of at the studio, and it allows the IT team to manage which applications/application categories are available to users. For example, explained Korzycki, only 10% of employees require access to the SSH protocol and app control easily allows IT to configure which people/groups/subnets have access to this protocol and when.

"Having each application configured like this also allows for tracking events. Together with bandwidth management,this makes it possible for us to optimise bandwidth use for services during specific hours or when the network is experiencing excessive bandwidth use," said Korzycki.

The firewalls also offer content filtering, which has allowed CD PROJEKT RED for better supervision of its networks, improving the studio's overall internal security. In addition, Gateway Anti-Virus blocks undesirable applications and files from being downloaded via HTTP, FTP, SMTP, and POP3 protocols, as well as from being launched on the user's computer.

"The SonicWall next-generation firewalls were the best match for our needs," explained Korzycki. "We decided to add-on security services to create an all-in-one solution."

Korzycki added that such powerful SonicWall security options as gateway management, antivirus scanning, botnet filtering, stateful failover clustering and synchronisation have streamlined network speed. "What's also worth mentioning is that the Gateway Anti-Virus has its database updated daily, which is a significant benefit for the IT department," he said. "Intrusion prevention protects our infrastructure from what we call silent attacks. Thanks to a very intuitive and easy to understand log monitoring feature, we immediately know exactly the attack's source, target as well as ports and protocols blocked by the IPS."

In addition to upgrading to a SonicWall next generation firewall platform, CD PROJEKT RED has implemented the SonicWall Global Management System (GMS) to optimise network security monitoring, enhance reporting and ease administrative workloads by centralising monitoring and control.

"GMS allows us to manage all devices from a single spot. It also generates clear reports covering network activity, blocked attacks, potential threats, as well as other notable events," he said.

Like most organisations today, CD PROJEKT RED wanted to take advantage of its virtualised infrastructure and offer employees and contractors secure access to its IT infrastructure without introducing security risks and bandwidth problems. The company found that the SonicWall Secure Mobile Access (SMA) 8200v virtual appliance with a secure remote access helped the company achieve the balance and benefits of virtualisation, eased administration and optimised performance with increased efficiency of resources and costs lowered.

"The SMA 8200v is also being used by studio employees, specifically outsource contractors who often need to quickly access the system, securely, to gain remote access to project assets," he said.

"The SMA 8200v (SSLVPN) is being used by every network user and employee in the studio and has replaced our previous solution, which over the years became less secure."

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