

# Caisses Populaires du Manitoba

## Protecting a Multi-Platform Member and Employee Network

Case Study

### Situation

Caisses Populaires du Manitoba is a bilingual (French/English) financial co-operative with 30 branch locations, headquartered in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The financial institution manages more than \$600 million that directly contributes to the economic development of the Manitoba community and services more than 30,000 members. At the core of this successful Caisse network is a group of 51 dedicated Board of Directors and 240 management, administrative support, tellers and member service personnel, each playing an instrumental role in its operations.



Caisses Populaires had reached the limits of its existing, highly reliable frame relay network, which primarily consisted of 56K frame relay connections from the head office to the edge branches. The financial institution considered simply increasing the available frame relay bandwidth but quickly determined that this would be cost prohibitive. Also, the increased bandwidth would not be available to all locations throughout the network, therefore still limiting the types of applications that could be used over the network.

With operations scattered throughout rural Manitoba, including a multi-platform network, the vision for replacing its frame relay network required research into several new technologies that are typically seen as insecure. Caisses Populaires desired reliability and security of its existing frame relay network with bandwidths typical of LAN based solutions. The investigation into these technologies included review of both wireless WAN and Internet based solutions.

Caisses Populaires required its network to segment its seven business units while streamlining operations. This segmentation included both physical and logical separation. Because of the nature of its financial business, Caisses Populaires had to ensure closed network security. Internet-based VPN technologies were dismissed due to the lack of high speed connectivity in some of the rural communities. Therefore a focused project around the use of secure site-to-site high-speed wireless technologies was initiated with Qanda Networks Ltd., a Winnipeg-based Solution Provider focusing its efforts on providing customers with secure internetworking solutions.

Qanda was selected by Caisses Populaires due to its experience with various technologies while remaining objective and vendor neutral. Caisses Populaires engaged Qanda Networks to research the viability of a wireless network that was equal in security to the frame network currently in place. The objective of this initial engagement was to determine the required technologies to provide the necessary level of security for a wireless WAN infrastructure.

### Solution

Caisses Populaires' physical architecture was designed upon a point-to-point wireless solution using radio speeds ranging from 10Mb at the edge to 72Mb at the core. The wireless architecture design is complimented with resilient IPsec VPN technology in order to ensure that all information traversing the WAN is encrypted at the highest possible levels.

As a financial institution servicing its members with a variety of online and computer based transaction-based products and services, Caisses Populaires du Manitoba was looking for a robust security solution to protect its multi-platform enterprise and extended enterprise of remote offices and workers. Qanda Networks evaluated security and switching products from several vendors including Cisco, Extreme, Fortinet, HP, NetScreen and WatchGuard.

**Deployment:**  
FortiGate-500 systems  
FortiGate-200 systems  
FortiGate-60 systems

**Industry:**  
Finance

Caisses Populaires chose Fortinet for its unique ability to provide high-speed VPN encryption and its ability to protect the network core and perimeter for viruses and intrusions through a full-featured, scalable product line that offers integrated security applications including stateful firewall, antivirus, VPN, intrusion prevention, Web content filtering, antispam and traffic shaping.



"Clearly Fortinet offered the greatest flexibility, compatibility, and range of features. The multi-threat platform within a single security appliance form factor including high-speed IPsec VPN capabilities provided Caisses Populaires with a value that other vendors could not provide," said James Morris, president for Qanda Networks Ltd. "The Fortinet solution allowed us as a system integrator to integrate many levels of security into the architecture without increasing costs or compromising the initial designs."

Caisses Populaires deployed Fortinet's enterprise-class FortiGate-500 and mid-range FortiGate-200 security appliances to provide complete content security for its headquarters and datacenter. Additionally, FortiGate-60 small/medium business (SMB) security appliances are deployed for content protection at each branch location with an automated teller machine (ATM). The ASIC-accelerated FortiGate systems' VPN throughput is highly performant, which is important in ensuring minimal network lag for Caisses Populaires' heavily used network.

## Success

Caisses Populaires has successfully deployed the wireless network solution, including Fortinet's security appliances for network protection, as originally designed and architected by Qanda Networks.

"The Fortinet solution scales to meet our wide ranging internal and external network security needs from the datacenter to our branch offices while providing the same comprehensive functionality across all products. This allowed us to implement a full end-to-end cost effective network security platform, with a critical eye towards minimizing unnecessary capital expenditures, tools from numerous vendors and burdensome administration," said Bernie Marcoux, director of Information Technology for Caisses Populaires du Manitoba. "With Fortinet's FortiGate security appliances, we are securing traffic for thousands of customers' data, hundreds of employees across 30 sites as well as remote workers."

Michael Legary, president of Securis, Inc., a provider of information security and risk management solutions, has conducted both pre and post production security audits of the entire network architecture, and said, "The wireless network design that Qanda developed with the Fortinet product line gave our client an infrastructure solution that reduced external risk, provided higher levels of network security and allowed for centralized security management for their diverse network."

## About Fortinet

Fortinet is the pioneer and leading provider of ASIC-accelerated unified threat management, or UTM, security systems, which are used by enterprises and service providers to increase their security while reducing total operating costs. Fortinet solutions were built from the ground up to integrate multiple levels of security protection—including firewall, antivirus, intrusion prevention, VPN, spyware prevention and anti-spam -- designed to help customers protect against network and content level threats. Leveraging a custom ASIC and unified interface, Fortinet solutions offer advanced security functionality that scales from remote office to chassis-based solutions with integrated management and reporting. Fortinet solutions have won multiple awards around the world and are the only security products that are certified in six programs by ICSA Labs: (Firewall, Antivirus, IPSec, SSL, Network IPS and Anti-Spam). Fortinet is privately held and based in Sunnyvale, California.

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