

RTL Nederland

Media company chooses Fortinet for stronger security at a lower cost

Case Study

Situation

With its three TV channels, RTL Nederland is an important player in the Dutch media world. RTL 4, RTL 5 and RTL 7 entertain and inform hundreds of thousands of viewers and listeners seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day. The RTL Nederland channels offer popular programmes such as the RTL Nieuws, RTL Boulevard, as well as various popular films and series. RTL Nederland is part of the RTL Group, the Europe's largest radio, TV and production company.

The logo for RTL Nederland, featuring the letters 'rtl' in a dark blue box and 'nederland' in a yellow box.

RTL Nederland highly depends on digital communications and the Internet. So, in order to guarantee that the information exchanged between its various recording locations and offices, as well as with its third-parties (producers, news services, press agencies) is reliable and protected from Internet threats, the broadcast company secured its communications environment with a large number of individual A-brand firewalls.

"The infrastructure was tough to manage. We wanted to consolidate and simplify using a clear architecture concept," says Rob van Loon, head of Helpdesk and System Management at RTL Nederland.

From a security perspective, Van Loon wanted to consolidate the various existing Internet connections into one and secure that connection integrally, up to the application level. The network also had to be segmented and zoned, to differentiate highly secure trusted sites from open unreliable ones and associate different security policies for each. However, this security implementation was not possible with the existing firewall solution in place. Van Loon commented: "We foresaw an imminent management nightmare."

Solution

Established security service provider Onsigth Solutions designed a new security architecture concept and advised RTL Nederland to implement Fortinet's FortiGate™-800 multi-threat security platform, a robust and user-friendly integrated solution which provides, in addition to firewalling, critical security functions including VPN, antivirus, antispam, Intrusion Prevention and URL filtering. To ensure redundancy, they recommended clustering two FortiGate appliances linked via fibre connections: if one system should inadvertently fail, the other system would simply take over. For reporting and analysis, Onsigth Solutions recommended Fortinet's FortiAnalyzer™, a dedicated appliance that securely aggregates log data from Fortinet and third party devices. Log records include traffic, event, virus, attack, Web content and email data that can be archived, filtered and mined for compliance or historical analysis purposes.

Deployment:

2 x FortiGate-800
1 FortiAnalyzer

Industry:

Media

RTL made the decision to go ahead with this choice as it provided them with a solution that was easier to manage and richer in terms of security functions.

Results

12-months after its deployment, the use of Fortinet's security appliances has brought unequivocal results and investments have been largely paid back.

"The management load has decreased considerably. FortiGate's user interface is intuitive and accessible. You don't have to enter code rules to configure the firewall. Thanks to the system's comprehensive reporting, we now have a far better picture of what is going on. We used to have to go through the log files of each individual firewall. Now we have a complete picture of the events from a single console," says Van Loon.

Because the information has become far more accessible, the system managers can actively monitor hacking and react more quickly. Van Loon concludes: "Thanks to FortiGate, there have been next to no security issues. And we have had no problems with viruses. The result is far greater peace of mind in the system management department."

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-Spyware). Fortinet is privately held and based in Sunnyvale, California.