

Case study - Rheinwohnungsbau GmbH

Ease of use and level of security are key - Astaro and Checkpoint lose out

Rheinwohnungsbau protects sensitive tenant data with gateProtect

1. The company

Düsseldorf-based Rheinwohnungsbau GmbH is a real estate company that has been combining profit maximisation with social objectives for over 75 years. Around 65 employees look after 7,000 dwellings in Berlin, Düsseldorf and Duisburg. It goes without saying that, given the social nature of its corporate philosophy, the company administrates a high volume of sensitive personal data. The three staff members working in the IT department at Rheinwohnungsbau therefore see data protection and security as their top priority.

2. IT security requirements

Auslöser des Firewall-Projekts war die Anbindung aller PC-Arbeitsplätze in den insgesamt 14 Außenstellen der Gesellschaft – dabei handelt es sich um Hauswartbüros, die für die Wartung und Instandhaltung der Mieteinheiten zuständig sind – an das zentrale Netz in Düsseldorf per VPN. Die Mitarbeiter in den Außenstellen sollten online mit dem ERP- und Groupware-System der Zentrale arbeiten, ohne dass dadurch das Sicherheitsniveau beeinträchtigt wurde. Dabei stand von vornherein fest, dass die bis dato Firewall – eine Eigenentwicklung des Linux-IT-Dienstleisters Linux Systems – diese Aufgaben nicht mehr erfüllen konnte und deshalb abgelöst werden musste. Hinzu kam der hohe Administrationsaufwand der Lösung, der nur mit externen Kräften bewältigt werden konnte, obwohl damit lediglich der E-Mail- und Internetverkehr überwacht wurde.

3. The evaluation

In 2006, producers Astaro, gateProtect and Checkpoint found themselves competing to be selected as suppliers of the new product. The gateProtect solution prevailed on the basis of its range of functions and also the simplicity and clarity of its user interface, the ergonomic Graphic User Interface (eGUI®).

4. The decision

„gateProtect meets all our technical requirements - segmentation of the main network at headquarters into eight subnetworks, spam and virus protection on the gateway, VPN, PPTP and Roadwarrior. Furthermore, all our expectations regarding ease of use have been more than fulfilled,“ says Christian Walter, who is systems administrator at Rheinwohnungsbau and responsible for the gateProtect implementation.

5. The solution

The security concept agreed with gateProtect was implemented in autumn 2006 in just six weeks using internal and external resources. The 14 caretaker offices have since been linked to the headquarters via a dedicated IP address area and secure VPN channels. The gateProtect entry level solution GPO 75 has been installed in each of the branch offices. At headquarters, there is a gateProtect GPX 800 which protects every area of the company from spam e-mails and attacks by viruses. Only some areas of the DMS can be addressed from outside, such as the mail server or the webcam; otherwise the network is sealed off.

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Für Clevermieter®

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Sector : Real estate
Users : 100

Appliances:

GPX 800 : 1
GPO 75 : 14

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6. The post-installation outcome

The project has met all the requirements and, what is more, the original budget was not exceeded. „The whole installation has been running almost completely free of any problems since we went live and, with the intuitive interface, administration of the 15 UTM solutions is very simple,“ says Christian Walter. „Furthermore, the high level of security offered by the solution means that we can allow our employees in the branch offices to work online in the systems at headquarters. This has speeded up and simplified our internal procedures several times over.“

Switching the security architecture to the gateProtect solutions has improved the speed and quality of support substantially. „Previously, it was often the case that the Linux specialists could not be contacted, or were not available, but the gateProtect support team is always ready, even at lunchtime or late in the evening, to solve our very infrequent problems,“ says Christian Walter.

Currently, Rheinwohnungsbau is planning to upgrade to the latest product generation from gateProtect, including more low-noise GPO 75 appliances in the branch offices.



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Background information

About gateProtect

GateProtect Aktiengesellschaft Germany is a leading supplier of IT solutions for network security. The main products are xUTM appliances, firewall and client encryption systems. In addition to offering exceptional technical performance, a significant feature of gateProtect products is their unique ease of operation. gateProtect is the only supplier in the world to implement the ISO NORM 9241 guidelines in the ergonomic design of its products. With its unique, patented eGUI® technology (ergonomic Graphic User Interface) and its new V2 Command Center, gateProtect is setting new standards in firewall configuration and management. The new eGUI® technology significantly increases effective corporate security and at the same time offers enormous improvements in ongoing system maintenance. This has an immediate benefit in cutting operating costs.

20,000 installations in Europe. German customers include well-known companies and institutions such as TÜV Thüringen, E.ON Energy, Mercedes Benz, Galileo Satellite Systems, Deutsche Bahn, Kneipp Werke, Constantin Film, the Technical University in Dresden and many more. Small and medium-sized companies in any sector form the primary target group of customers. For more information please see www.gateProtect.de.