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Matthew Gruett
TDS Telecom
Internet Systems Specialist

TDS Telecom Makes the Right Call with Juniper’s Network Security Solutions

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Customer:

TDS Telecom, a diversified telecommunications corporation

Industry:

Telecommunications

Challenge:

Installing a security infrastructure that met the performance needs of the company

Solution:

Juniper Networks NetScreen firewall, VPN and IDP security solutions

Benefits:

- Increased network security and performance
- Saved time and money by consolidating vendors
- Simplified upgrade process because of centralized management
- Increased employee productivity

TDS Telecom, a national phone service company, brings high quality, locally based telecommunications services to 900 rural and suburban communities across the country. Headquartered in Madison, Wisconsin, the company, along with its subsidiaries TDS Metrocom and USLink, serves more than one million customers and recently received the "Best in Business" award by InBusiness magazine.

As a telecommunications company maintaining critical customer data, it is imperative that TDS Telecom have a network security solution in place that can prevent hackers from breaking into the network and obtaining customer information.

However, previously using a multi-OS software-based firewall solution, TDS Telecom found that it could not get the performance scalability it needed to handle the growth it was anticipating. “We found that sessions couldn’t synch fast enough and if there were too many sessions at once, the system simply couldn’t

handle it. With the growth we were anticipating, this could have resulted in unacceptable performance,” said Matthew Gruett, Internet systems specialist at TDS Telecom.

The Solution

Needing a new network security solution with advanced capabilities that is compatible with its Solaris network and allows for increased performance demands, TDS Telecom replaced its firewall and intrusion detection products with Juniper Networks NetScreen security solutions.

Deployed in High Availability (HA) mode to protect TDS Telecom’s network and critical customer data, are two Juniper Networks NetScreen-500 systems, capable of providing up to 700 Mbps firewall and up to 250 Mbps 3DES IPSec virtual private network (VPN) performance. Also located at headquarters are Juniper Networks NetScreen-208 appliances which provide up to 550 Mbps firewall and up to 200 Mbps of 3DES IPSec VPN performance and four



Juniper Networks NetScreen-204 appliances providing further isolation and additional layers of security.

TDS Telecom also deployed two Juniper Networks NetScreen-IDP 500 systems, which provide up to 500 Mbps throughput and operate inline to accurately detect and drop malicious traffic in real-time before it reaches its victims. The devices are deployed in active/passive mode.

Additionally, eight Juniper Networks NetScreen-204 appliances are being used to secure and facilitate a virtual messaging application combining text, fax and voicemail messaging.

And, Juniper Networks NetScreen-5XT and -5XP appliances, providing up to 20 Mbps firewall and up to 13 Mbps of 3DES IPSec VPN performance, provide a cost-effective firewall and VPN solution for TDS Telecom's small remote site offices.

To manage security on all the networks, TDS Telecom is using Juniper's network security central management solution, which allows IT department staff to easily manage all the Juniper security devices and create and modify security policies. The platform also offers pre-defined reporting templates and allows network managers to create customized reports that are useful for tracking Juniper's NetScreen solutions.

The Benefits

TDS Telecom has seen many benefits since using the NetScreen devices. Gruett commented, "We originally selected Juniper's network security appliances because we knew the performance was greater than our previous solution. We had no idea we'd be seeing so many other great benefits."

Using Juniper's network security solutions, there is only one vendor's interface to learn. TDS knows that the graphical user interface is the same for all the firewall and VPN products thereby significantly reducing the learning curve. Whether using the NetScreen-5XP or NetScreen-208, IT staff can spend less time managing the appliances and more time on other projects - making TDS Internet Services much more productive.



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