Case Study: METTLE SE

Vertical : Agriculture/Plantation
Geography : Pan-India

Client Profile

They are an agri-business company with estates and factories spread across remote locations of South India and marketing/administrative offices at various locations in India. These remote locations require connection to servers hosted at their head office (HO) to access their ERP system and other facilities such as messaging. This month we will look at how Mettle SE streamlined the IT infrastructure of South India's leading agri-business company.

Problems to solve

Remote users need routine and controlled access to their ERP system on the corporate network. Remote access servers including Citrix servers and application servers were to be made available to remote VPN users. Local area network at HO has a large number of computers with Internet access and they need to be firewalled and secured. Content scanning and filtering has to be implemented for LAN. Viruses, Worms and other malicious content originating from the Internet has to be blocked.

Solution

Mettle SE 2400 was deployed at their head office to sort out all of their IT infrastructure related issues. Solutions built up on Mettle SE are classified into the following sections:

1. Mettle SE as a VPN Concentrator

2. NAT and PAT

3. Firewalling and Routing

4. Gateway Anti-virus and Content Scanning

Mettle SE as a VPN concentrator

Mettle SE made it possible to connect more than twenty four remote offices, factories and estates to head office through SSL-VPN. Some remote clients use Microsoft Windows 98 operating system. These clients use PPTP to connect to corporate VPN since the outdated OS does not support newer VPN technologies such as SSL-VPN. Total number of users are in excess of eighty which is excluding a number of users connected via PPTP and IPsec. Remote VPN users on different operating systems seamlessly connect to the corporate network using multiple VPN technologies supported by Mettle SE. Remote users can reliably access Citrix servers, Lotus Notes and back end servers every time they need

to. Mettle SE has been working flawlessly ever since it's deployment satisfying their VPN requirements and more.

NAT and PAT

Mettle SE provides Internet connectivity to computers, Laptops and servers hosted in the corporate network. Mettle SE is configured as the gateway and NATing enabled to provide Internet connectivity to host machines that need direct access to the Internet. Mettle SE is set as the proxy server for other host machines which need a controlled access to the Internet.

Our client required certain servers hosted in corporate network to be accessible over the Internet. Mettle SE provided port address translation service to the servers that has to be accessed from a public network. Mettle SE has mapped multiple internal servers to public IP addresses and they are now available on the Internet for users with valid credentials.

Firewalling and Routing

To secure the publically accessible servers, firewall rules are created in Mettle SE. Remote users' access to host machines in the corporate network is strictly controlled, based on their requirement. Mettle SE blocks all unspecified traffic from reaching the corporate network.

There are around five route-able LAN segments in the network. Critical servers like, Citrix, ERP and application servers and Lotus notes, are placed in a secured LAN subnet to separate them from office LAN traffic. Mettle SE routes users on local LAN to the server network when they access their servers.

Content Scanning and Gateway Anti-virus

Mettle SE is the terminating point for the two ISPs which provide Internet bandwidth to the HO. Mettle SE is the gateway for host computers and servers. Mettle SE protects the local network from viruses and worms coming from the Internet with its built in Gateway Anti-virus service. Mettle SE updates itself automatically with latest anti-virus definitions available so as to catch any new viruses.

High speed unrestricted Internet often adversely affect employee productivity. Our client has a corporate Internet usage policy dissuading employees from visiting certain websites and using certain web services. Mettle SE helped the network administrator in implementing the usage policy. Internet traffic is filtered by Mettle SE. Web sites and services that violate Internet usage policy are blocked preventing users from accessing it. Mettle SE keeps the Internet content distribution in the corporate LAN, clean and safe.

Conclusion

Mettle SE is the hub of our client's IT infrastructure, all the connections to the outside network is routed via Mettle SE. It provides on demand connectivity solutions to their remote offices using appropriate VPN technology. They have made the right decision by choosing Mettle SE. Mettle SE has proven to be the right answer to many of their IT infrastructure related questions.

For further information:
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