

Case Study: METTLE SE

Vertical : TV/Media
Geography : Pan-India with headquarters in Kerala

Client Profile

A leading Television media company with offices across India and abroad had really taxing problems with their IT infrastructure. Being a large TV media and news company they have a number of geographically distributed offices and some are as far as the United States. Interconnecting their geographically distributed offices without compromising security and performance was one of the major problems they faced.

Problems to solve

This case study presents a variety of problems they have solved with Mettle SE. And it describes how they are managing the complexity of a heterogeneous network using an array of Mettle SE Integrated Network Service Engine.

Of all their requirements, Connectivity, Security and High Availability were the high priority items in their list.

Connectivity

To interconnect offices Mettle SE 3700 has been installed at their corporate office and Mettle SE 2400 in their remote offices and bureaus. Physical connectivity is established between offices using high speed leased lines and VPNs terminated at Mettle SE. Mettle SE takes care of inter-office routing over leased lines and VPNs.

Mettle SE 3700 deployed here has six ports which can be configured either as WAN or LAN as required. This feature allowed them to connect multiple WAN/ISP links at a time than any other products available in the market in a cost-effective manner.

They have segmented the LAN into various VLANs for easy management. After WAN/ISP link termination there were only a few ports left and they had seven LAN segments to be terminated at Mettle SE. Thanks to the IEEE 802.11q tagged VLAN support in Mettle SE they overcame physical limitation of number of ports by scaling out Mettle SE ports using tagged-VLAN capable switches.

Security

Most offices of our client connect to the Internet through a single point: the Mettle SE 3700 installed at the Corporate Office. All branch offices across India connect to the Corporate Office via leased lines and the Internet bandwidth is provided from Corporate Office pool. This makes sense as the Corporate office has high bandwidth lines. As there is only a single point of entry and exit to the outside network for the countrywide network, it becomes easier to secure the internal network and enforce Internet usage

policies. Inbuilt gateway anti-virus engine of Mettle SE monitors and keeps out viruses and malicious content at the gateway level.

Along with scanning and blocking certain traffic from the Internet, our client wanted to prevent users from accessing those web sites which are against organisation's Internet usage policy. This requirement was implemented using Content Scanning Service of Mettle SE. In addition to content scanning, Mettle SE keeps log of Web usage on a per-user basis and enables administrators to detect policy violation attempts.

Those offices which are connected directly to the Internet, above services are provided by local Mettle SE. If the direct Internet connectivity in branch offices fails, Mettle SE routes the outbound Internet traffic to the Mettle SE 3700 deployed at HO via leased lines.

High Availability

They have critical servers hosted behind Mettle SE which need to be accessed via multiple ISP links. Our challenge was to provide inbound and outbound connectivity redundancy along with bandwidth load balancing for those servers and redundancy for Internet access.

High availability servers are put behind Mettle SE to provide an inbound load balanced Link with Failover. If one WAN link fails the server would still be available on the second WAN link. If all the WAN links are available, outbound traffic from servers will be balanced across available links—ideal for best performance and maximum link utilisation.

Traffic generated within the local network destined to the Internet is distributed across available WAN links. In the event of a WAN link failure, Mettle SE would automatically take out the failed link from the load balancing pool. Once the link is back up Mettle SE would again add it in the load balanced pool.

Conclusion

Mettle SE is the central point of their IT infrastructure now and it helps them to follow network best practices. They are proud of their decision to adopt Mettle SE to secure and manage their infrastructure.

For further information:

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