



NTT Data Sanyo System Corporation Relies On F5's FirePass® To Support Their Secure, Highly Available SSL VPN Service

Customer Profile

Company Name:

NTT Data Sanyo System Corp

Industry:

Internet Service Provider

Web site:

<http://www.nttd-sanyo.co.jp/>

FirePass Highlights:

- Interaction between FirePass and WisePoint (a matrix code authenticator) provided high reliability while protecting clients from security risks
- Delivered flexibility to allow full network access
- Provided easy implementation and configuration to support various user environments

About NTT Data Sanyo System

Known as the Internet service provider "SANNET", they first offered the Managed SSL VPN Plus Service in December, 2004. This service offers a safe and secure remote access environment for companies by using a matrix code authenticator for login and for implementing anti-virus devices.

NTT Data Sanyo System Corporation plays a wide and active role in everything from building mission-critical systems to Internet services and 3D image processing systems. They have established strong credibility with both businesses and consumers, and take advantage of the know-how established by supporting the spread of IT inside and outside of the Sanyo Electric group.

Executive Summary

For their Managed SSL VPN Plus Service, NTT Data Sanyo System chose F5's FirePass SSL VPN based on: 1) its cooperation with a matrix code authenticator called WisePoint Authenticator, 2) achievement of full network access, 3) simple configuration, and 4) fast implementation. Using FirePass, NTT Data Sanyo System Corporation was able to achieve an SSL VPN service with high functionality and security which meets the demanding service requirements of the enterprise. The highly reliable FirePass SSL VPN provided secure, trouble-free service with a low operational burden.

Challenge

Managed SSL-VPN Plus Service is a new service started by NTT Data Sanyo System in December, 2004. For a monthly fee, companies can achieve secured remote access without device implementation and the burden of an operation staff by using the SSL VPN service operated from their connection centers. Three big advantages of the new service are as follows: First, full access to an in-house network is allowed, enabling the use of client/server-type business systems without installation of specified software onto client PCs. Second, secure identity authentication can be used in combination with a matrix code authenticator, which is achieved by a one-time password from Falcon System Consulting's "WisePoint Authenticator" so that spoofing by users with wrongful intent is never allowed. Third, remote access is protected from being a security risk for enterprise networks in combination with the anti-virus device "FORTIGATE".

Solution

At first, when planning to select a device for the new service, NTT Data Sanyo System examined an SSL VPN product other than FirePass. There were, however, some problems in the steps needed for performance verification. Since full access to a network was an option for the service, an extra configuration was required, and there were some cases in which full access could not be achieved during verification. Unless stability is high, the full access function cannot be used for service to enterprises. In addition, although NTT Data Sanyo System decided to implement a WisePoint matrix authenticator, WisePoint could not support this other product because the authentication protocol in it was unique. Mr. Akihiro Hamada, Manager, Second Group of the IP Solution Promotion Department at NTT Data Sanyo System, recalls at that time, "There was a demand to achieve access to terminal servers, so we were in a situation in which we had to examine other SSL VPN appliances."

NextCom, a company with extensive experience dealing with IP solutions including SSL VPN, introduced FirePass to Mr. Hamada and NTT Data Sanyo System.

Said Mr. Sakai of NextCom: "We recommended FirePass, taking into account the full access function to a network, the access function to terminal servers, and the interaction with WisePoint. However, along with these functions, a big determining factor was the simplicity of implementation and configuration."

Actually, by starting verifications with FirePass, problems appearing up to



this point were all cleared without complicated configurations. Based on its simple implementation and achievement of high functionality and security, NTT Data Sanyo System decided to officially adopt FirePass.

The biggest determining factor for the adoption of the FirePass was that the full network access function was very stable with simple configurations, and that it interacted smoothly with WisePoint. The full network access function, which builds VPN tunnels between enterprise networks and client PCs, and enables the use of all IP applications as if connected to an in-house LAN, is included as a standard function in FirePass. Even in terms of security, FirePass obtains a high appraisal from NTT Data Sanyo System. It is equipped with functions that achieve a high level of security required for services, such as a protected workspace function which prevents data from being left on a client PC. It also includes a cache cleanup function which prevents any keys being left for unauthorized access. Furthermore, it also has a client integrity check function which checks versions of anti-virus software or patch application status on a client PC when connecting.

Mr. Hamada remarked, "All required functions could be verified smoothly. The management screen is also easy to use, so I don't have any uncertainty about further operations." He also expressed his satisfaction and confidence in FirePass.

The Managed SSL-VPN Plus Service, which NTT Data Sanyo System has started at this time, is an exclusive-use type, assuming use with 100 to 500 IDs. NTT Data Sanyo System will further examine a shared-use type and low-price service to enable its use in small offices in the future. In addition, while spreading this new service, NTT Data Sanyo System hopes to expand a new awareness of SSL VPN.

Mr. Hamada commented with enthusiasm, "When it comes to SSL VPN, people only think of access through Web browsers, but I would like people to know that it can be used in client/server type applications other than the Web. If they realize this, SSL VPN adoption will spread even more."

About F5

F5 enables organizations to successfully deliver business-critical applications and gives them the greatest level of agility to stay ahead of growing business demands. As the pioneer and global leader in Application Traffic Management, F5 continues to lead the industry by driving more intelligence into the network to deliver advanced application agility. F5 products ensure the secure and optimized delivery of applications to any user - anywhere. Through its flexible and cohesive architecture, F5 delivers unmatched value by dramatically improving the way organizations serve their employees, customers and constituents, while lowering operational costs. Over 9,000 organizations and service providers worldwide trust F5 to keep their businesses running. The company is headquartered in Seattle, Washington with offices worldwide. For more information go to www.f5.com.