

“With this level of value, both we and our customers can be satisfied.”

Dr. Klaus Biedka  
LIT  
Head of Communications, Information and  
Network Security Services (KISS)

# The District of Berlin's High-security Computer Center Trusts Juniper Networks Security Solutions

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#### Customer:

The district authority for information technology (LIT) is a public service center for the Berlin district authorities.

#### Industry:

German government authority

#### Challenge:

Secure connection and protection of customer networks to LIT backbone

#### Solution:

Juniper Networks NetScreen integrated firewall and IPSec VPN appliances

#### Benefits:

- High performance increases productivity
- Integrated functionality provides high value
- Simple management via browser eases administration and saves time

The District of Berlin's network brings all administrative threads together in one place. The high-speed MAN (Metropolitan Area Network) connects 400 individual district authority networks, private customers and also integrates the Brandenburg district network into the Berlin data system. The district authority for information technology (LIT) is, despite its administrative origin, a classic service provider, also offering services to external customers.

Since 2000, the LIT has been measured equally in terms of cost and service spectrum alongside other providers. Meanwhile, approximately eight percent of its revenue is made up from the private business sector.

“We operate in an open marketplace and in competition with other firms. In this respect we are no different to any other IT service provider,” said Dr. Klaus Biedka, head of communications, information and network security services (KISS). “We still take care of the infrastructure for

the district authorities – data security aspects demands it – however, for all other aspects, customers are free to use the services of outside providers.”

Awareness of costs and value are fixed cornerstones for LIT and form an integral part of every single customer account. In the KISS department this is an even more important consideration, as decisions made to select lower cost products cannot be made at the cost of compromising security.

Five years ago, as new salary calculation software was being introduced, Dr. Biedka's team was faced with the task of selecting an optimal encryption solution for data transfer protection. At that time, a software-based virtual private network (VPN) product won the contract. However, the requirements have changed significantly since then, and LIT was forced to look for new solutions with better flexibility, more functionality, manageability and performance.

## The Solution

Rent-A-Center selected the Juniper Networks purpose-built As more and more customer networks required a secure, encrypted connection to the backbone, a new contract was tendered. This time the solution had to incorporate firewall functionality in order to finely regulate access of the customers' networks to the backbone.

This was the basis upon which the renewed search for suitable solutions began. As a market leader known for its best-of-breed solutions, Juniper Networks NetScreen security solutions was one of the candidates on the short list from the beginning. Also, Juniper Networks had already made a good impression within the KISS department with a previous, smaller project. In the evaluation, the KISS department team focused on the manufacturer's ability to combine firewall with IPSec VPN functionality.

A number of software-based approaches from other vendors were eliminated right from the start. The specialists decided that these were too expensive and too proprietary in their use of protocols and interfaces. Other test candidates failed to match the customer's high standards of performance and throughput.

"We begin every new project with the development of a security concept, which naturally includes the media used for connecting the resources," explains Dr. Biedka. "We offer our customers a range of packages, from ISDN or multi-megabit throughput, right through to gigabit Ethernet. Obviously, our firewall and VPN solution has to be able to handle all of this equally efficiently."

In the end, there was a favorite: Juniper Networks integrated firewall and IPSec VPN devices. The LIT installed several Juniper Networks NetScreen-208 and Juniper Networks NetScreen-204 appliances in their high-security computer center. For the customer-LANs, Juniper Networks NetScreen-5XP to Juniper Networks NetScreen-204 models are made

available, depending on each customer's performance requirements. In total, there are currently between 50 and 70 units either in operation or being prepared for operation.

More than 135,000 users depend on LIT services, and therefore, demand faultless operation within the secure infrastructure. To provide critical services 24/7, KISS has deployed the Juniper Networks NetScreen devices in a High Availability (HA) configuration, made up of two firewall pairs, in its high-security computer center.

## The Benefits

The results after a year show that the Juniper Networks NetScreen firewalls meet the LIT's strict performance specifications. Throughput has been judged as extremely good, both from the KISS team and customers alike. More than 3,000 VPN clients and several dozen site-to-site deployments have performed exceptionally.

Dr. Biedka is also satisfied with system management. Currently, the KISS department uses the Juniper Networks NetScreen Web interface for management. The NetScreen policy-based central management platform is currently being evaluated for future use by the KISS department.

With regards to security, customers whose data is particularly sensitive, for example those in the areas of justice and jurisdiction, can feel safe. The strong, standard compliant encryption methods keep hackers at bay, even in areas where the extensive LIT copper and glass fiber cabling crosses public territory.

LIT is so happy with the Juniper Networks NetScreen deployment, the organization is ready to take the relationship with Juniper Networks to the next level. "We will continue to work with Juniper Networks as long as our customers are happy," says Klaus Biedka of the continuing demands on the security solution. "And with this level of value, both we and our customers can be satisfied."



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