

“The Juniper Networks firewall is bulletproof.”

Ron Smith

CSU Monterey Bay
Associate Director of Information Systems
and Network Services

CSU Monterey Bay Learns the Value of the Juniper Networks Network Security System

CSU MONTEREY BAY

Customer:

CSU Monterey Bay, a California state university

Industry:

Education

Challenge:

Install a cost-effective and easy-to-implement network security system

Solution:

Juniper Networks NetScreen firewall solution

Benefits:

- Simplified administration, which saves time and costs
- Increased security, network performance and reliability
- Optimized IT budget
- Reduced network attack infiltration by 85-90 percent

One of the 23 California State University schools, CSU Monterey Bay has educated and served the diverse population of California and the Monterey region since 1994. The University has invested in the future through integrated and experimental use of technologies as resources to people and catalysts for learning. CSU Monterey Bay uses the Internet for many of its academic and administrative functions, including its online courseware application, which allows the 3,500 students to review their courses, register for classes, check grades, confirm financial aid status and more.

Previously without a firewall, the University was wide open to internally and externally generated network attacks. Attacks similar to the recent Blaster worm would provide great degradation to CSU Monterey Bay's network performance and require hours upon hours of network cleanup and repair by the small IT staff.

As a California State University that strives to provide the highest level of education at a reasonable cost, CSU Monterey Bay could not afford to have a network attack take down the entire network. In the beginning of 2002, CSU's auditors mandated that Monterey Bay put in place a firewall to make sure that all University data was protected.

Requirements

Relying heavily on Web-based applications, the University's IT staff knew that it was critical to install a firewall that would protect its critical courseware application and other student, staff and faculty data without jeopardizing network performance and reliability. As with most universities, budgets are small, and institutions demand a solution that is cost effective and simple to implement. Another important requirement for the University when selecting a network security vendor was finding a vendor that offered an integrated firewall and virtual private network (VPN) solution.



“Selecting a network security vendor was something we wanted to do once and not have to reinvent the wheel or to rip it out and put something else in if we weren’t happy with the product. We had one shot to get it right,” said Ron Smith, Associate Director of Information Systems & Network Services at CSU Monterey Bay.

The Solution

After looking at multiple network security vendors’ offerings, CSU Monterey Bay selected Juniper Networks security solution. The Juniper Networks network security solution allowed the University to test the product on its network—thereby enabling the school to see firsthand how the product performed in its complex network configuration.

“The fundamental purpose-built approach of Juniper Networks solutions impressed us more than a software-based solution. With a software solution, anyone can write a program to attack the operating system, making the system potentially vulnerable,” stated Smith.

CSU Monterey Bay selected the Juniper Networks NetScreen-500 system to serve as the University’s main firewall protecting student, faculty and staff data. The Juniper Networks network security system provides robust integrated firewall and VPN functionality with up to 700 Mbps firewall performance and up to 250 Mbps of 3DES IPsec VPN performance. The Juniper Networks firewall’s high performance allows the University to use a single Juniper Networks device to secure its network without compromising network traffic throughput and reliability.

The Benefits

“Juniper Networks has exceeded CSU Monterey Bay’s expectations. The ease of management is just fantastic. We have already seen more benefits from the Juniper Networks implementation than anything we have ever purchased,” added Smith.

Juniper Networks security appliances are specifically designed for easy installation in a variety of environments. The easy-to-use graphical user interface (GUI) and management features of the Juniper Networks devices’ allow CSU Monterey Bay to simplify administration, thereby saving time and costs.

In addition to the efficiency realized from the Juniper Networks security product’s robust management features, minimizing licensing fees and limiting support contracts to a single vendor, CSU Monterey Bay has a cost-effective security solution.

Smith said, “I have found that very few vendors can claim to meet these requirements effectively. But with Juniper Networks, CSU Monterey Bay is able to operate a high-performance and reliable solution while maximizing its IT budget.”

Instead of having an entire team to implement the Juniper Networks firewall, CSU Monterey Bay needs only a few man-hours to configure, test and upgrade the box. CSU Monterey Bay’s staff was able to quickly and easily install the Juniper Networks device.

Finally, since installing Juniper Networks network security system, CSU Monterey Bay has seen a dramatic improvement in their network security. CSU Monterey Bay calculates that it has seen an 85-90 percent reduction in attack infiltration since deploying the Juniper Networks solution.

Smith concluded, “The Juniper Networks firewall is bulletproof.”



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