

How Cisco IT Deployed Firewall Protection for a Small Business Acquisition

FWSM is flexible enough to secure small businesses as well as large enterprises.

BUSINESS BENEFITS

- 99.99% Website availability
- Increased network security and stability
- Failover capabilities
- Tools for central management and reporting
- Improved ability to detect and respond to network attacks
- Simple migration with no downtime

“Linksys gained a cost-effective solution for improving network security while achieving 99.99 percent availability.”

– **Steve Acheson, Senior Information Security Architect, Cisco Information Security Group**

Linksys, a division of Cisco®, needed to replace a PC-based firewall with a solution that would provide greater security and reliability. Like many small and midsized businesses, Linksys previously used a Linux-based PC as the firewall for its external Website. Linksys IT wanted to deliver 99.99 percent (four 9s) availability for the Linksys.com Website. However, even minor problems were causing the firewall to fail, which created more frequent downtime for the Website.

To improve overall network availability, Cisco IT helped the Linksys network staff implement a pair of Cisco Catalyst® 6500 Series switches with Cisco Firewall Services Modules (FWSM) and Cisco Content Switching Modules. Deployed in parallel in the Linksys data center, the switches provide redundancy and failover capabilities, as well as capacity for growth in Linksys network traffic. The Cisco FWSM provides a high-performance, stateful inspection

firewall with engines for examining traffic at the application and protocol levels.

This solution delivers greater network security, failover capabilities, and tools for central management.

Greater security capabilities and firewall availability means the Linksys.com Website can achieve its objective of 99.99 percent availability while also supporting scalability to meet traffic growth or new availability requirements. There was no downtime for the Linksys.com Website or impact on applications or users during the migration from the PC-based firewall, or during firewall maintenance activities.

New capabilities are planned for improving network security and availability. These capabilities include server-level failover and additional tools for protection against denial-of-service attacks. Linksys IT is also evaluating internal applications for allowing firewall-protected, external access by users and new types of traffic.

Case Study: http://www.cisco.com/web/about/ciscoatwork/case_studies.html

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To read the entire case study or for additional Cisco IT case studies on a variety of business solutions, visit Cisco on Cisco: Inside Cisco IT www.cisco.com/go/ciscoit

NOTE

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