



Small Business Firewall Protection

How Cisco IT Deployed Firewall
Protection for a Small Business
Acquisition



A Cisco on Cisco Case Study: Inside Cisco IT

Overview

- Challenge

 - Replace a PC-based firewall that could no longer deliver adequate performance or reliability

- Solution

 - Pair of Cisco® Catalyst® 6500 Series switches with Cisco Firewall Services Modules and Cisco Content Switching Modules

- Results

 - Improved network security, stability, and availability

- Next Steps

 - Support new security capabilities, traffic types, and applications

Challenge

Replace a PC Firewall

- Goal: Deliver 99.99% (four 9s) availability for Linksys.com Website
- Not possible with the Linux-based PC firewall:
 - Low reliability
 - Firewall management meant downtime for Website
 - Vulnerable to denial-of-service attacks
 - No redundancy; firewall was a single point of failure
 - Limited statistics and application support

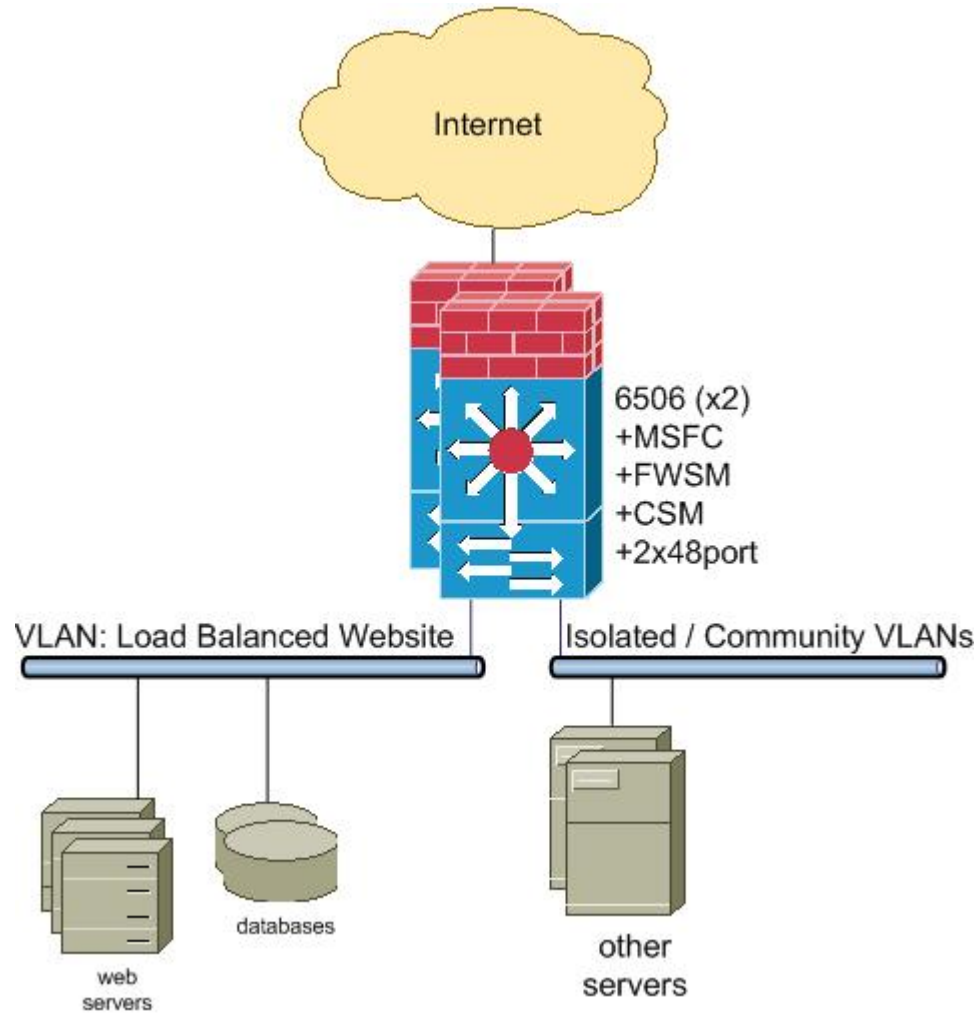
Solution

Cisco Catalyst 6500 Series Switches and Modules

- Pair of Cisco Catalyst 6500 Series Switches
- Cisco Firewall Services Modules
 - High-performance, stateful inspection firewall
 - Examines traffic at application and protocol levels
- Cisco Content Switching Modules
 - High-performance load balancing for Website traffic
- Part of project to improve overall availability of the Linksys network



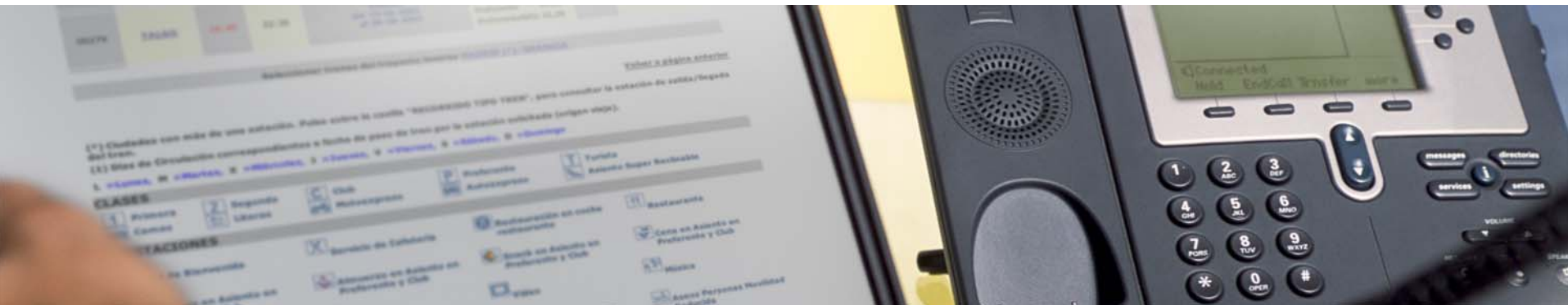
Solution



Results

Increased Network Security, Stability, and Availability

- 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



Next Steps

Expand Solution Coverage

- Implement server-level failover
- Support new traffic types such as online chat
- Allow protected external access to more applications
- Investigate additional Cisco solutions for protection against network attacks
- Examine NetFlow statistics to improve security measures
- Consider Cisco Remote Operation Service for network support



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

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