

Case Study: Invensys Pensions



invensys pension scheme

Challenge

Find integrated routing and security solution to replace physical network security in a virtual environment

Solution

Vyatta Open Networking Software

Benefits

Complete networking solution
Optimized virtualization tools
Scalable routing in VMware
Easy to manage
Expert guidance from Professional Services team

"I was looking for a virtual machine that was capable of delivering the security feature set I was used to and more advanced routing functionality than my existing L3 switches. That's when I found Vyatta,"

Vyatta Provides Integrated Virtual Network Solution for Pension Organization

Invensys Pensions Trustee Limited is the independent organization responsible for managing the pension scheme for employees of Invensys, a global technology and controls firm. Based in Newcastle, UK, with two remote locations in London, Invensys Pensions' staff manage an investment portfolio of nearly £4.5 billion.

Challenge

Network security is a very high priority for Invensys Pensions. The network regularly carries data related to sizable investment transactions as well as payroll and personal information on more than 92,000 Invensys employees and retirees.

Invensys Pensions' Mick Southern, IT Manager, had been considering migrating network services into the current VMware virtual environment for some time. With the impending renewals of existing Microsoft Internet Security & Acceleration Server (ISA) and Computer Associates software in early 2008, Southern decided the time was right to evaluate all of their infrastructure needs. He felt that a single source solution combining firewall, VPN, content filtering, and routing within their virtual environment would help simplify management and best secure their financial data.

Solution

Southern focused his search on the VMware forums. "I was looking for a virtual machine that was capable of delivering the security feature set I was used to and more advanced routing functionality than my existing L3 switches. That's when I found Vyatta," says Southern. "Clearly, Vyatta generated the most positive comments of all the products discussed. That's what sold me on evaluating Vyatta."

Getting the network set up properly was critical, so Southern engaged Vyatta Professional Services. "We mapped out the network, drew a few diagrams," says Southern. "They were very knowledgeable and delivered on time. In some instances they went beyond what they needed to do. I was very happy with the results."

Vyatta easily replaced the firewall and VPN previously provided through ISA. The Invensys Pensions network relies on Vyatta software at two of its three locations. The first is the Newcastle office where most of the processing and data entry occur. The second is the Disaster Recovery site in London at Victoria. Data is continually replicated from Newcastle to London over the Vyatta-managed VPN for secure backup.

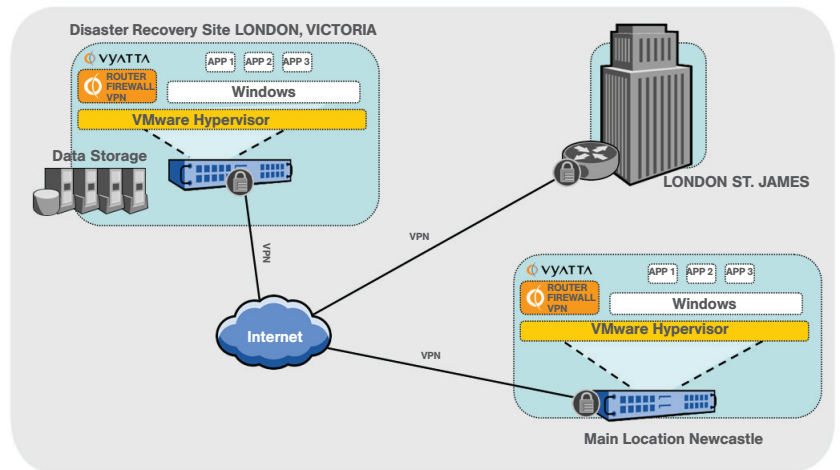
Benefits

Vyatta has been in production at Invensys Pensions for over a year. In that time it has demonstrated rock solid stability—outperforming some of the other



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network components. "We had an issue where some of the virtual machines lost connection to the local storage," recalls Southern. "But because Vyatta runs mostly in memory, it kept running while all the Windows servers died."

Southern is pleased in another way that Vyatta is not Windows-based. "Because we are predominantly Windows, I wanted our first line of defense to be non-Windows based just to introduce another level of complexity for anyone trying to break in." For Southern, Vyatta provides a high level of security and peace of mind. "There are always new weaknesses discovered in Windows machines. With Vyatta, I don't have to worry about that."

The reliability of the Vyatta solution has meant little need to contact Support. "I've only had one issue, actually a question, which I resolved through email support," says Southern. "They were very responsive."

Ongoing management has been a satisfying experience. Southern has performed one upgrade so far. "You just punch in a few commands. It's so easy." Monitoring is also easy. "It sits there and works," says Southern. "It doesn't produce this huge log file of problems. It's not chatty like some Windows machines are. I just leave it and get on with my job."

About Vyatta

Vyatta builds commercially supported, open-source networking solutions that provide an alternative to over-priced, inflexible products from proprietary vendors. Vyatta customers know that Vyatta's open routing and security software gives them a level of control unavailable from proprietary solutions. Vyatta customers are thought leaders who recognize the benefits of flexible deployment options—x86 hardware, blade servers, virtualization—of freedom to integrate applications of their choice, and of the economic and performance advantages of commodity hardware and components. For more info, visit <http://www.vyatta.com>.