

Case Study: ConnectInPrivate



ConnectInPrivate

Challenge

Find highly scalable, cost-effective VPN solution for hosted security service

Solution

Vyatta 2502 appliance

Benefits

Scalability

- no incremental licensing

Easy, fast to deploy

- preconfigured appliances

Cost effective

- no per user fees or forced upgrades

Standards-based

- extensive VPN client support

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Vyatta Offers High-Performance VPN Concentrator Solution for Internet Privacy Company

ConnectInPrivate.com based in Panama, with points of presence in Panama City, Panama and Toronto, Canada, provides anonymous web surfing tools to help individuals and small businesses hide personal information and keep personal data safe when shopping or banking online, visiting social web sites, or emailing. Users redirect their web activity through the company’s servers so that the only IP address visible is from ConnectInPrivate.com and any information sent is strongly encrypted.

Challenge

To protect its customers’ data, ConnectInPrivate.com establishes a VPN tunnel between the user and a ConnectInPrivate.com proxy server. This required a solution capable of aggregating thousands of simultaneous VPN tunnel end-point connections.

In the early beta stages of deployment, ConnectInPrivate.com tested a platform based on Juniper’s SSL VPN product. But the progressive cost of licensing to support additional tunnels made the solution economically unscalable.

ConnectInPrivate.com also considered the Cisco 5500 Series Adaptive Security Appliance to provide VPN connections. “Again, the cost of the hardware was just extraordinary,” says Bill Montgomery, Project Manager ConnectInPrivate.com. “And then the licensing costs came into play as with Juniper.”

Solution

The network engineers at ConnectInPrivate.com had prior experience with Vyatta open networking software, which led them to take a closer look at the VPN scalability of Vyatta appliances. Vyatta solutions combine enterprise-class routing and security with the performance and economics of open systems, giving network administrators the ability to innovate, scale, and grow in ways that were previously unavailable.

Montgomery was pleased to see that Vyatta didn’t require incremental licensing fees, making it extremely cost effective for scaling to thousands of VPN tunnels. “When we considered the cost of putting a customer on our network, there was a drastic difference between Vyatta and any other products we looked at.”

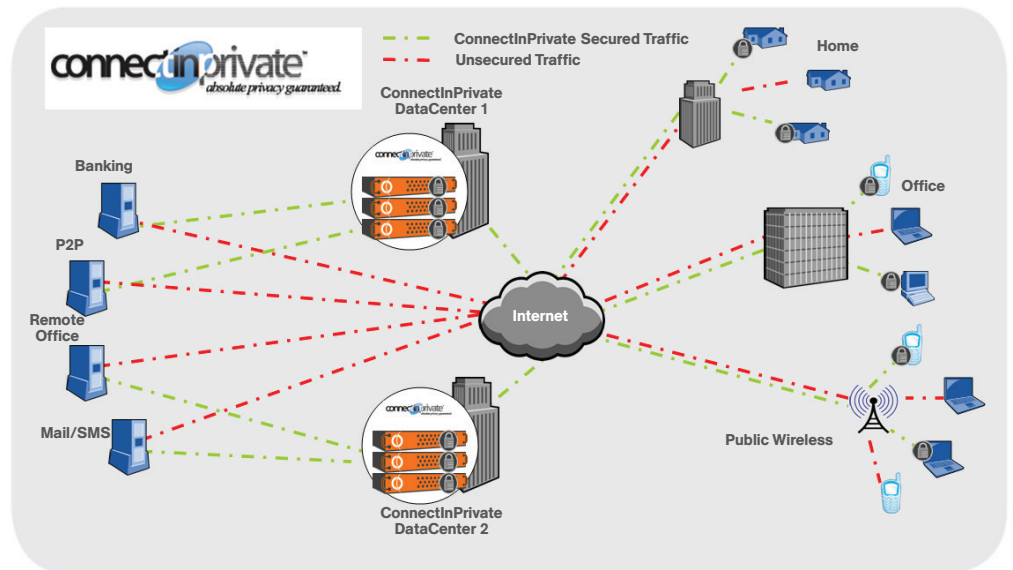
Montgomery was also pleased to see that Vyatta supported the Layer 2 Tunneling Protocol (L2TP), the most widely adopted VPN protocol. “It gives us a standard method of access that everyone supports, unlike Juniper’s SSL VPN, for example, that lacks support for mobile applications.”

Encouraged, the network engineers at ConnectInPrivate.com downloaded the current open source version of Vyatta and began testing it. “It was very flexible, very easy to program and implement,” says Montgomery, who was



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impressed. “As a VPN concentrator, Vyatta blew the doors off Juniper. And the functionality was much better.”

Convinced that Vyatta would meet all of its needs, ConnectInPrivate.com decided to deploy Vyatta 2502 open networking appliances. “It made sense to go with a hardware platform we know is supported. And the price point for the appliance was less than what we would have paid for the same server from Dell,” says Montgomery.

ConnectInPrivate.com has deployed Vyatta 2502 appliances as both gateway routers and VPN concentrators in Toronto and in Panama. “Installation was fast and easy, and whenever questions have come up, Vyatta Support has been there. Tech support has been tremendous,” says Montgomery. “They’re very responsive.”

Benefits

ConnectInPrivate.com demanded an IPSec VPN tunnel aggregation solution that could scale economically, quickly, and easily—and Vyatta delivered. “We wanted something that didn’t have a license restriction,” says Montgomery. “I would estimate conservatively that each Vyatta appliance supports 2000 tunnels, and perhaps as many as 5000 with no additional license fees, which gives us better growth potential.”

Vyatta appliances are also fast and easy to install and reliable. Each appliance is shipped from the factory preconfigured. “It only takes us five or ten minutes to get a Vyatta box up and running,” says Montgomery. “And once they are configured and ready to go, they work. We haven’t had any downtime.”

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 Linux-based router, firewall and VPN 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>.