



RocketSpace provides shared office space and business services for tech and new media companies. Operating out of a 42,000 square-foot facility in San Francisco’s South of Market district, it supports approximately 400 end users from 90 companies. RocketSpace has deployed a SonicWALL® E-Class Network Security Appliance (NSA) E5500 Next-Generation Firewall with Application Intelligence and Control in order to ensure prioritized bandwidth and maximum network security and productivity.

The challenge: supporting a broad range of platforms and bandwidth demands

“We have to provide a very platform-agnostic, open and reliable infrastructure,” said Mike Bowie, director of IT at RocketSpace. “We’ve gone above what anyone else working in our industry has in terms of connectivity and quality. We’ve got 200 Mbps aggregate, redundant routers at our edge and at our core, redundant switches on every floor. We want to be able to provide users with speed test results that they take home and talk about.”

RocketSpace must ensure quality of service (QoS) for a wide range of bandwidth-demanding clients.

“Quality of service is a kicker for us, and a function that can really only be performed with application intelligence,” asserted Bowie. “Unlike typical network environments, we support many companies that depend on Skype® or BitTorrent® to do their business, therefore we have to prioritize latency-sensitive traffic. We can’t let one customer’s bulk file transfer eat up bandwidth and cause another customer’s voice call or Skype video to stutter.”

At the same time, QoS cannot come at the expense of security and visibility.

“Because we offer a very open network, we need to be cognizant of intentional or unintentional malware, viruses or abuse of bandwidth,” explained Bowie.

Previously, RocketSpace had used a Cisco® firewall, but had outgrown its capacity. In evaluating an alternative solution, Bowie engaged the assistance of BEAR Data Solutions, a global value-added reseller that helps enterprise clients design, optimize and support mission-critical IT infrastructures. BEAR Data was instrumental in the evaluation process and subsequent bake-off of the next-generation firewall vendors RocketSpace considered.

RocketSpace evaluated products from Check Point® and Palo Alto Networks™ before choosing a SonicWALL solution.

“The Check Point system required a lot of overhead, and was simply not feature-rich enough to do what we needed,” acknowledged Bowie. “Palo Alto didn’t have particularly good responsiveness on the web interface.”

Of the paired firewall solutions the company compared, SonicWALL offered the best value proposition.

“SonicWALL offered us a lot more functionality with three years of licensing at a significantly lower cost than Palo Alto did with only one year of licensing,” reported Bowie.

The Organization

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The Challenge

- Broad range of application platforms
- High performance demands
- Competition for available bandwidth
- Security over open environment

The SonicWALL Solution

- NSA E5500
- Application intelligence, control and visualization

The Results

- Enhanced QoS
- Greater ease of management
- Reallocation of resources
- Responsive support

The SonicWALL Benefits

- Identifies and controls applications, regardless of port or protocol
- Currently recognizes over 3,000 applications and millions of malware threats
- Granular control over applications, bandwidth and website access
- Tightly integrated with SonicWALL Reassembly-Free Deep Packet Inspection®
- Real-time graphs of applications, bandwidth, active website connections and user activity
- Gateway anti-virus, anti-spyware, intrusion prevention, anti-spam and content filtering Deep Packet Inspection of encrypted SSL traffic

The solution: NSA E5500 with Application Intelligence, Control and Visualization

"When other products and vendors failed to stack up during our evaluation process, BEAR Data was extremely responsive and without hesitation in recommending we bring SonicWALL to the party," noted Bowie. "BEAR Data's rapid response, along with the speed at which SonicWALL was able to bring in and deploy an evaluation platform only added to the credibility of the platform and our trust in both companies."

RocketSpace implemented two NSA E5500 Next-Generation Firewalls featuring SonicWALL Application Intelligence, Control and Visualization. As an inline solution, the NSA E5500 leverages existing infrastructure while adding an extra layer of network security and visibility. As a security gateway, it adds secure remote access, high availability (HA) and other enterprise features.

"I especially liked the fact SonicWALL pairs HA licenses," related Bowie. "With Check Point, we would have had to license each module twice."

SonicWALL Application Intelligence and Control provides RocketSpace with granular control and real-time visualization of applications, regardless of port or protocol. With a continuously expanding signature database currently recognizing over 3,000 applications and millions of malware threats, the company can maintain granular control over applications, prioritize or throttle bandwidth and deny website access. The SonicWALL Application Flow Monitor

provides RocketSpace with real-time graphs of applications, ingress and egress bandwidth, active website connections and user activity.

The result: enhanced QoS and ease-of-management

The solution has enabled RocketSpace to provide reliable QoS for its customers.

"Being able to allocate available bandwidth to our client QoS pool and actually break it down granularly is just invaluable. SonicWALL gives us the critical ability to see what is going on and respond to issues both proactively and responsively."

Mike Bowie
Director of IT
RocketSpace

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Bowie has found the solution saves time and is easier to manage.

"SonicWALL abates user issues before they become problems and in fact, has optimized our performance," affirmed Bowie. "We've taken the time we used to spend on monitoring the firewall and put it into business initiatives."

SonicWALL has been highly attentive to the company's needs.

"Of all the vendors, SonicWALL is second to none," remarked Bowie. "Their team has been extremely responsive and very helpful with any questions or concerns, even resolving issues with our customers' systems

that were beyond our direct control. Working with SonicWALL has been very, very good."



SonicWALL's line-up of dynamic security solutions



NETWORK SECURITY



SECURE REMOTE ACCESS



WEB AND E-MAIL SECURITY



BACKUP AND RECOVERY



POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

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