

The Organization

Boys & Girls Clubs of San Francisco
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The Challenge

- Securing wireless Web access to Club members
- Unreliable wireless devices
- Unreliable firewall security
- Difficult management

The SonicWALL Solution

- SonicWALL NSA and TZ Series UTM firewalls
- SonicWALL SonicPoint-N access point devices
- SonicWALL SSL-VPN 2000 secure remote access appliance
- SonicWALL Comprehensive Gateway Security Suite (CGSS)

The Results

- Greater security
- Greater reliability
- Clientless secure remote access
- Ease of deployment
- Ease of management

Founded in 1891, Boys & Girls Clubs of San Francisco® serves more than 1,200 youth (ages 6 to 18) per day, offering a safe place to learn and grow. It operates nine clubhouses in the city's toughest neighborhoods, as well as Camp Mendocino, a residential summer camp in Mendocino County. The organization has 120 employees and 275 computers; all supported by Neil Smith, Director of IT at the Boys & Girls Clubs of San Francisco.

"I'm a department of one," said Smith. "I'm responsible for our entire IT infrastructure."

Smith supports wireless Internet access for computers that cannot connect to a wired network due to infrastructure limitations, as well as visitors with laptops.

The challenge: Wireless access that is kid-safe, simple and cost-effective

For Smith, stopping inappropriate Web access and content at the gateway is a high priority.

"YouTube® and MySpace® both represented a serious issue for us, in that kids can easily access inappropriate content by accident," said Smith.

Smith was dissatisfied with the WatchGuard® firewall solution he had previously used, and found the Linksys® wireless devices at the Clubhouses difficult to manage and prone to failure. He considered a Cisco® wireless solution, but determined it would be too complex for him to manage alone. Smith then tried a SonicWALL® TZ 180 appliance, and found it easy to configure and manage. Based upon this experience, he decided to upgrade the organization's wireless infrastructure using a SonicWALL platform.

The solution: SonicWALL Clean Wireless

Smith made the organization's wireless networking secure, easy and affordable by choosing to deploy a SonicWALL Clean Wireless solution, comprised of a central SonicWALL Network Security Appliance (NSA) 240 firewall; distributed SonicWALL TZ 180, 190 and 210 wireless firewalls; and SonicWALL SonicPoint-N wireless access point devices.

The SonicWALL NSA 240 is a next-generation Unified Threat Management (UTM) platform, utilizing a breakthrough multi-core hardware design with 2 cores and Gigabit Ethernet interfaces to deliver real-time network protection without compromising performance. The SonicWALL TZ 210 provides ultra-fast 802.11n wireless, 50 Mbps of full UTM, integrated SSL VPN, and Application Firewall functionality, enabling data leakage prevention, custom signature creation, and control over Web 2.0 applications such as social networking sites. SonicWALL SonicPoint-N access point devices, which combine 802.11n and 802.11a/b/g wireless management with the UTM to further extend comprehensive security across the organization's wireless network.

Boys & Girls Clubs of San Francisco Case Study

"Being able to apply SonicWALL technology has been great. I count on it being reliable and fast, but it's also very well thoughtout and constantly evolving to address new concerns."

—Neil Smith
Director of IT
Boys & Girls Clubs of
San Francisco

SonicWALL Benefits

- Clean Wireless environment
- Deep Packet Inspection
- High-performance 802.11n
- Easy central management
- Clean VPN

By deploying Clean Wireless, Smith made the organization's wireless network as secure as its wired network, using high-speed Reassembly-Free Deep Packet Inspection and UTM. The innovative dual protection of Clean Wireless secures each clubhouse's wireless network by encrypting wireless traffic and decontaminating it from network threats over a high-speed 802.11n wireless network. At the same time, it comprehensively cleans the traffic to protect the WLAN from viruses, spyware and other attacks, using the SonicWALL Comprehensive Gateway Security Suite (CGSS), featuring Gateway Anti-Virus, Anti-Spyware, Intrusion Prevention Service, Application Firewall, and Content Filtering.

SonicWALL Clean Wireless minimizes management cost and complexity by centralizing management of both wired and wireless networks from a single SonicWALL network security appliance, without the added costs of multiple wireless controllers and security appliances.

The result: Greater security and ease-of-management

Smith has successfully deployed SonicWALL Clean Wireless at five clubhouses. With SonicWALL, Smith is able to apply the same gateway security policies he uses for the organization's wired LAN traffic to its wireless traffic. In particular, Smith uses the Application Firewall feature to restrict bandwidth available for YouTube, MySpace and Google® video traffic.

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The Clean Wireless solution has enabled the organization to safely provide greater services for its club members through various programs that require secure wireless access to the Internet. For example, all members attend a Netsmartz program, which teaches appropriate Web usage. The keystone program provides wireless Web access to help teens research colleges, and the Virtual Vacations program exposes members to cultures of other countries over the Web. The Learning Centers all provide Web access to help members with their homework. Members also play safe, all-ages Web-based games for recreation.

The future: Extending the network with SonicWALL Clean VPN™

Based on his successful experience with SonicWALL, Smith has deployed a SonicWALL Clean VPN solution using a SonicWALL SSL-VPN 2000. Clean VPN delivers the innovative dual protection of both SSL VPN and high-performance UTM that is required to both protect the integrity of VPN access and secure the integrity of VPN traffic.

"I often get people telling me how much they love the SonicWALL SSL VPN and how easy it is to use," said Smith. "It's also made it much easier for me because staff are able to get to network resources on their own, so I tend to get less support calls."

The dual protection of a multi-layered Clean VPN approach decrypts and decontaminates all authorized SSL VPN traffic before it enters the network environment. The SSL-VPN 2000 provides the organization's staff with easy-to-use, secure and affordable remote access and support that requires no pre-installed client software. Utilizing a standard Web browser, authorized users can easily and securely access email, files, intranets, Web and network applications from any location.

SonicWALL's line-up of comprehensive protection



NETWORK
SECURITY



SECURE
REMOTE ACCESS



WEB AND E-MAIL
SECURITY



BACKUP
AND RECOVERY



POLICY AND
MANAGEMENT

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