

The Organization

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The First National Bank, Cortez,[®] recently successfully deployed a SonicWALL[®] Network Security Appliance (NSA) 2400 Unified Threat Management (UTM) firewall solution. Located in southwest Colorado, the First National Bank, Cortez, is a small traditional community bank that focuses on the needs of local families, businesses and farmers and channels most of their loans to the neighborhoods where their depositors live and work.

SonicWALL spoke with Mark Autrey, Vice President/Manager of Information Systems at First National Bank, Cortez, about the security challenges facing the community banking industry, and ways the bank has integrated SonicWALL UTM technology into its comprehensive network security solution.

Q.: *What is your role at First National Bank, Cortez?*

A.: I am responsible for anything that a small community bank would need from an IT perspective, from strategy and acquisition to maintenance and upgrades of IT systems. That covers pretty much anything with an on-off switch for roughly 23 internal end users.

Q.: *What are the main security challenges you were facing in providing remote access to your network resources?*

A.: When I took on this position, the bank was using a Linux-based IP-table firewall that had been custom-built by a local third-party service provider. Our regulatory examiners did not like the idea of us having third party firewalls because of the potential for someone to set up a back door through the firewall to our systems. There was definitely a need to sever that relationship and bring control over the firewall back in-house. To take that on, I needed a solution that I could install and support myself.

Q.: *How did SonicWALL compare with other solutions that you considered?*

A.: I researched trade publications, and talked with my peers and other tech specialists to narrow my comparisons down to the SonicWALL NSA 2400 and the Cisco[®] ASA 5510. Then I spoke with representatives from both SonicWALL and Cisco and asked them questions about the advantages of their respective solutions.

Q.: *What made you select SonicWALL?*

A.: I was impressed with the SonicWALL Comprehensive Gateway Security Suite and SonicWALL ViewPoint[®] reporting functionality. The VPN in SonicWALL is easier to set up and administer and has less overhead than Cisco. In addition, the SonicWALL solution was more cost-effective.

Q.: *What has been your biggest benefit from choosing SonicWALL?*

A.: By giving me the ability to administer my firewall internally and locally, as well as the option for secure remote access, the NSA 2400 gives me a complete level of control that I didn't have before.

First National Bank, Cortez, Case Study

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—Mark Autrey
Vice President/Manager of
Information Systems
First National Bank, Cortez

Q.: How has the solution made management easier for you?

A.: Our previous solution had no functional reporting, only raw-format log files. It's been great to get notifications on scans, intrusion prevention, spyware prevention and other attacks, and to be able to show examiners that we are watching and preventing these kinds of threats.

Q.: Has the solution enhanced the bank's regulatory compliance?

A.: As a bank, we are required to have external third-party audits for penetration and vulnerability testing. The NSA 2400 fully meets our audit requirements, and lets us provide the examiners with detailed reports on how we are managing intrusion prevention and detection.

Q.: What features have you found particularly helpful?

A.: The SonicWALL Content Filtering Service has let us restrict people from going to places on the Web that they should not be going. It makes the system more secure, helps productivity by keeping people from wasting time on the Web, and makes the network throughput faster by blocking inappropriate traffic.

Q.: What has been your experience with SonicWALL support?

A.: Support has been a great benefit. I can call a SonicWALL technician whenever I need help with an issue about opening or closing specific security borders, and they will walk me through. With our old system, we paid for annual maintenance, plus per incident charges, so we have reduced support costs with SonicWALL as well.

Case Study Solution Spotlight

SonicWALL NSA 2400

The SonicWALL NSA 2400 is a next-generation Unified Threat Management platform, utilizing a breakthrough multi-core hardware design with two cores and six Gigabit Ethernet interfaces to deliver real-time network protection without compromising performance. Ideal for small-to-midsized corporate and branch office environments, the NSA 2400 offers best-in-class threat prevention, rapid deployment and low cost of ownership.

SonicWALL Comprehensive Gateway Security Suite (CGSS)

The SonicWALL Comprehensive Gateway Security Suite (CGSS), featuring Gateway Anti-Virus, Anti-Spyware, Intrusion Prevention Service and Application Firewall, combines security, productivity, and support in a single solution with a low cost of ownership, providing an increased return on investment over independent products.

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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