

“The Juniper Networks SSL VPN solution has made my life easier.”

Douglas Hart

Arizona Game and Fish Agency
Network Administrator

Arizona Game & Fish Makes the Catch with Juniper Networks SSL VPN



Organization:

Arizona Game & Fish, government agency to conserve, enhance and restore Arizona's diverse wildlife resources and habitats.

Industry:

Government

Challenge:

Complying with Homeland Security requirements

Solution:

Juniper Networks NetScreen SSL VPN solution

Benefits:

- Secure network access anytime, anywhere
- Increased network security and scalability

Arizona Game and Fish is a state agency headquartered in Phoenix with six additional regional offices and approximately 500 employees, including wildlife managers in the field. Their mission is to conserve, enhance and restore Arizona's diverse wildlife resources and habitats through aggressive protection and management programs. They also aim to provide wildlife resources and safe watercraft and off-highway vehicle recreation.

To meet recent U.S. government homeland security requirements, the Arizona Game and Fish agency needed to provide more secure remote access across their regional offices and to other state agencies, such as the Highway Patrol, so authorized remote users could access department files and Microsoft Exchange/Outlook, as well as administer their Microsoft Terminal Server for network maintenance. Prior to selecting the Juniper Networks secure sockets layer (SSL) virtual private network (VPN) remote access solution, the agency deployed

a remote access server. A handful of employees would dial into the remote access server locally to access files, while employees located in the field and in regional offices would dial in using a long distance number.

“Our previous remote access server brought us problems including costly long distance bills and lack of access to critical applications. We had to find a more cost-effective and user-friendly solution,” said Douglas Hart, network administrator at the Arizona Game and Fish Agency.

The Solution

After seeing the Juniper Networks SSL VPN featured in a trade magazine, Hart received a demo of the Juniper Networks NetScreen Secure Access appliance. That day he ordered a 90-day Juniper Networks NetScreen-SA 5000 evaluation unit and before the 90 days had expired, he purchased the unit for his organization's permanent use and stopped using the remote access server.



The Juniper Networks NetScreen Secure Access appliance leverages the SSL protocol, which is supported by standard Web browsers, to enable universal information access using only an Internet connection and a Web-enabled device, such as laptops, smartphones, home PCs and Internet kiosks. Arizona Game and Fish employees enter a user name and password at a designated Web domain and after being authenticated can access rich Web-based applications, Java applications and file shares, enabling greater employee mobility and productivity.

The Benefits

Since deploying the Juniper Networks SSL solution, Arizona Game and Fish has seen many benefits.

“The difference since using the Juniper SSL is that productivity has been 1000 fold because our users have the ability to work at home instead of taking time to drive in to the office or use slow dial-up connections,” said Hart. He noted that the average user lives approximately 30 minutes from the headquarters location.

The organization now has a single box solution that lets it meet homeland security requirements with better security measures and stronger authentication and encryption capabilities.

“The Juniper Networks SSL VPN solution has made my life easier,” added Hart. “It allows access to mail, file sharing and applications through a single device. I don’t have to buy three different appliances to do file transfers, e-mail and applications. Plus, administration is easier, more simplified and there is no learning curve for my team and me.”

Currently, there are more than 200 Arizona Game and Fish employees that can access network resources and e-mail via the NetScreen Secure Access 5000 SSL VPN. Because a significant portion of their employee base travels, including attending related seminars and symposiums held around the world, Hart plans to accelerate the SSL VPN rollout to all 500 of their employees before the end of 2004.

“Having the SSL VPN, a laptop and the Internet, our employees can get access to our network and their e-mail from anywhere, anytime,” said Hart. “It’s extremely convenient and a huge success.”



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