



SAP

Secure Network Provides Secure Guest and Employee Access to Global Solution Center

SAP is the world's leading provider of collaborative enterprise resource planning solutions. With 60,100 installations serving 10 million users at 19,300 organizations in 120 countries around the globe, SAP ranks as the world's third-largest independent software provider. Serving all business sectors, SAP software addresses virtually every business function a company or organization needs to perform and manage. SAP has been in the business of e-business for 30 years. Founded in 1972 by five former IBM systems engineers, SAP now employs nearly 30,000 people in more than 50 countries.

Industry:

High Technology

Number of Employees:

30,000

Challenge:

Ensuring distinct guest and employee connectivity for total security

Solution:

Secure Network solution using Enterasys multilayer switches and NetSight™ Atlas Policy Manager

Benefits:

- Secure Network helps ensure security with network access based on specific users and their roles
- Secure Guest Access Solution easy to deploy and maintain
- Wire-speed performance and throughput greater than 2 Mpps enable advanced technology and the latest applications
- NetSight Atlas Policy Manager provides automated and centralized capabilities that save vital time and resources

The company is headquartered in Walldorf, Germany, with U.S. operations headquarters located in Newtown Square, Pennsylvania.

The Challenge:**Ensuring Distinct Guest and Employee Connectivity for Total Security**

SAP America's Newtown Square, Pennsylvania, headquarters hosts one of the company's Global Solution Centers— state-of-the-art facilities where customers and prospective customers can interact with SAP application experts to see the SAP solutions in action and collaborate to answer questions and resolve issues.

According to Martin Smith, SAP systems engineer responsible for LAN and remote access operations, SAP was looking for a way in which SAP employees working in the Global Solution Center could have access to corporate technology resources while visitors could gain access to the Internet without compromising network security. "In the past, we've provided employee and guest connectivity either by connecting the facility to the internal network or by extending only Internet access into the areas where it was needed," Smith explains. "These solutions may have worked for the interim, but neither was ideal."

By connecting the entire facility to the internal network, SAP could jeopardize network security. Yet by offering only Internet access in the Global Solution Center, SAP would make employee access more complicated. SAP employees working in the Global Solution Center would need to use VON client software to create a VON tunnel through the Internet to the SAP internal network. "We really wanted something that was secure yet easy to use," said Smith.

The Solution:**Secure Network using Multilayer Switches and NetSight Atlas Policy Manager**

To solve its problem, SAP deployed Enterasys' Secure Networks Secure Guest Access Solution in its Global Solution Center.

A unique, policy-based system that allows the network to allocate resources based on specific users and their roles, the solution enables SAP to offer Global Solution Center visitors access to IT resources, which they can use to connect to the Internet or their own corporate VON services. At the same time, SAP employees can have access to internal information for on-line demonstrations and custom solutions development, to ensure that a guest's visit to the Global Solution Center is a meaningful one.

Secure Networks accomplishes this by creating two distinct roles. The “enterprise user role” is an SAP employee who will connect to the enterprise network infrastructure. The “guest user role” is the guest who will connect to limited IT resources. To deliver the benefits of Secure Networks, ports in the Global Solution Center are set to require authentication and incorporate MAC address limiting, whereby only a MAC address that authenticates the port is allowed full access. A static policy of “guest” access, which provides Internet connectivity, is available to users who do not authenticate.

SAP employees who use the system’s web-based authentication when they connect to a port in the Global Solution Center will receive full access once authentication is complete. “An employee and a guest can be working side by side,” Smith states. “Once an employee authenticates, they’re assigned the employee role, which gives them access to the same corporate information they would have at their own cubicle—e-mail, file and print sharing, and SAP business applications.”

Together, Enterasys’ multilayer switches and NetSight Atlas Policy Manager make up the solution, giving SAP’s Global Solution Center accessibility, bandwidth control, and security. The first step, authentication, takes place when a user logs on and the switch sends the authentication request to a RADIUS server, which proxies the authentication request to a Microsoft Active Directory. Once the Microsoft Active Directory authenticates the user, the RADIUS server checks directory attributes and returns a filter-id to the switch. It is this filter-id that informs the switch which role to enable on the port. A graphical, easy-to-use management tool, the Policy Manager application provides automated capabilities that save vital time and resources, automating and centralizing functionality.

With Secure Networks, SAP can be assured that their corporate assets are secure, since guests have access to only a minimal set of services and core corporate resources are protected. The impact to the network resources is also controlled so that a guest cannot negatively affect IT business processes vital to corporate users.

An Enterasys customer for more than six years, SAP takes advantage of Enterasys X-Pedition™ switch routers and Vertical Horizon™ switches in the data center and SS2200 switches throughout their enterprise. The Secure Networks Secure Guest Access Solution represents SAP’s first implementation of a port-based authentication infrastructure.

Contact Us

For more information, call Enterasys Networks toll free at **1-877-801-7082**,
or +1-978-684-1000 and visit us on the Web at **enterasys.com**