



EMD

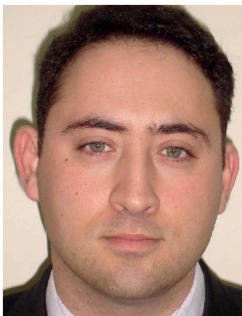
Complete information security for professional services firm

Healthcare/NHS | Business Continuity | SE46 Application Whitelisting



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Andrew Cauchi
Director – ICT Services
EMD



Background

EMD, based in Valletta, Malta, originally started out as a law firm, but since 2000 it has evolved to become an independent professional services organization providing legal, tax, accounting and corporate finance consultancy and services. As new partners have joined the organization and new services have been introduced, the business has grown steadily and now has over 50 members of staff including full time employees, part-time employees and consultants. EMD is currently working on the establishment of representative offices in strategic locations around Europe.

Requirements

Information security: For EMD, information security is critical. The integrity and confidentiality of client information underpins not only the relationship and trust that they have with their clients, but also EMD’s business reputation.

“Information security is not a luxury – we deem it to be a necessity in our business”, explained Andrew Cauchi, ICT Services Director for EMD. “In fact it should be a necessity for any business since information is the most important asset of any organization. Our clients entrust us with their information so we believe we have an obligation to take all steps necessary to ensure their information is safeguarded.”

As the company has expanded, controlling the movement of information has become more of a challenge. Client information has become more distributed and de-centralized, and users increasingly need to work away from the office, using laptops and PDAs to access information remotely and communicate with colleagues and clients.

It was clear that the existing VPN solution was not the best approach for providing the secure

online communications and applications that the business would need in the future.

Solution

Following careful analysis of various options, Cauchi’s team identified that Cryptzone’s AppGate Solution would provide the security, flexibility and functionality that the company required. Why did EMD decide to invest in AppGate’s technology? Cauchi explains:

“The functionality of the AppGate solution could be achieved by a number of other products working together but there is no other solution available which can actually do everything that AppGate does from one box. We see AppGate as a technology that can completely secure our network, and it can do it in a user friendly, easily manageable, low maintenance way. AppGate was an obvious choice.”

EMD installed two AppGate Ax1 security servers configured in a cluster to provide redundancy and ensure high availability.

The AppGate system supports server clustering for scalability and redundancy. The system scales almost linearly: adding a second server results in twice the performance and so on. User connections are automatically load balanced across the units but if one server should fail, all users are directed to the remaining good server automatically as they connect.

AppGate worked closely with EMD’s internal ICT support team to ensure the technology integrated with existing network infrastructure smoothly. “Time for deployment is very, very low”, says Cauchi. “AppGate affords a personal touch with its clients which is something you won’t get from the big solution providers; and because of that AppGate really understand their clients’ requirements.”

"Our experience with the AppGate team has been very positive. AppGate affords a personal touch with its clients which is something you won't get from the big solution providers; and because of that, AppGate really understand their clients' requirements"

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The AppGate system incorporates all the functions necessary for secure remote access including strong authentication, authorisation, encryption and access control. Roles and Rights Management tools make it possible for system administrators to specify in detail how and under what circumstances each service/application on the network should be available to each user.

In addition all user sessions are logged so there is a clear record of who accesses what, and when. In some circumstances this can drill down further with individual file movements to and from network shares being logged.

Even though EMD has been using the system for only a short time, they have already discovered several added benefits. "With AppGate you can execute changes on the LAN or WAN in just a few clicks – something you cannot do with traditional technology. If you want to configure a change on the network it is usually a lot of work but with AppGate that is not the case."

Future

One of the AppGate features that EMD plan to deploy in the future is Secure Instant Messaging. "Our staff use an external IM tool at the moment to keep in touch and for work planning, but it isn't something we're keen on because of the security implication. However, with AppGate all communication is encrypted and we can have secure IM. We will probably be using that feature extensively."



Key benefits

- All functions that are necessary for secure remote access are provided in one appliance rather than having to integrate various point products
- Full encryption of all communication over the network ensures information remains confidential even with applications such as instant messaging
- Full tracking of access to resources supports compliance with regulatory requirements
- Quick to install – the user friendly graphical user interface helps administrators configure rules and policies quickly
- Central point of control makes it quick and easy to configure changes on the network

Cryptzone solutions mitigate information security risks in key areas of Policy Compliance, Content Security, Secure Access and Endpoint Security.

International Headquarters

Cryptzone Group AB
Drakegatan 7,
SE-412 50 Gothenburg,
Sweden

www.cryptzone.com
info@cryptzone.com

Regional Offices

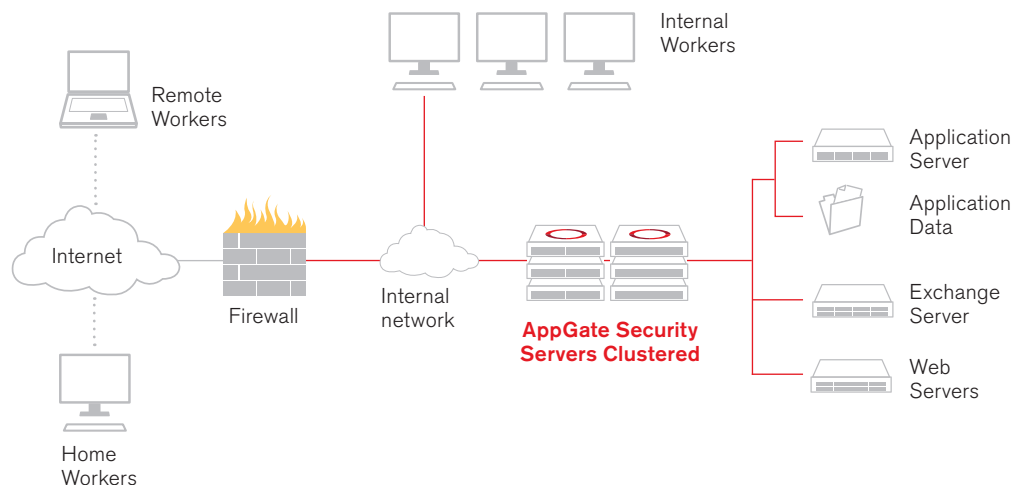
Sweden
Tel: +46 (0)31 773 86 00

United States
Tel: +1.949.279.6177

United Kingdom
Tel: +44 (0)370 013 1600

Partner information:

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