



LMAX

Smooth operations ensured for innovative trading enterprise

Finance | Secure Application Access | AppGate

LMAX
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Paul Boniface
IT Security Manager, LMAX



Background

LMAX is a new and innovative multi-asset exchange for retail investors. LMAX was established by Betfair, the world’s leading sports betting exchange, and launched in October 2010 after several years of development.

Challenge

In the fast-paced financial services industry, companies can’t afford to have systems down for any length of time. IT support & development teams need 24/7 access to online systems, and remote access is therefore critical to ensure services keep running smoothly. LMAX were using an IPSec VPN remote access product but it had some limitations and an alternative solution was required.

With some traditional secure remote access products, the security measures introduced to protect the network can make it quite difficult for people to work away from the office. The challenge for LMAX was to find a solution that would not only provide the high levels of security required in the financial industry, but which would also make it easy for trusted employees to access the systems and applications required wherever they wanted to work from.

Requirements

LMAX required a remote access solution that would meet all their requirements:

Strong Security – administrators should be able to control the areas of the network that each authorized user can access; for example, allowing specific individuals access to production systems but not the development systems.

High Availability and Flexibility

– employees should be able to work remotely from any location, at any time, and not be restricted to using company computers. The solution should be capable of integrating with Unix/Linux infrastructure and enable users to run any application remotely.

Scalability – the solution should have the capacity and functionality to support additional users and new services in the future as the business grows.

The Solution

After comparing various solutions, the LMAX team led by Information Security Officer Paul Boniface, identified that the AppGate network security solution from The Cryptzone Group would meet all the company’s requirements.

Cryptzone’s AppGate system provides users with fast, easy access to multiple applications through a single log-on procedure while enforcing security policies and protecting user traffic through encryption and tunneling.

Security: LMAX has installed a clustered pair of AppGate Security Servers at two separate sites to provide a high availability platform as part of their business continuity plan. AppGate encrypts all user network traffic as standard and supports a range of authentication methods and two-factor authentication.

Advanced Rules and Rights Management tools provide tight control over the network resources that each user can access. Other areas on the network are not visible to the user, thus minimizing the risk of unauthorized access. “AppGate gives us really fine-grained control”, says Boniface. “Rather than users having remote access to the whole network, it allows us to give secure access to particular systems and individual desktops.

"AppGate is very simple to install. We have had great support from the Cryptzone team and we got everything up and running very quickly."

Paul Boniface
IT Security Manager, LMAX

"I'm already getting a lot of good feedback from the users about how easy it is compared to the old system. All they have to do is go to a web page and click on an icon and it gives them access to their desktop."

Paul Boniface
IT Security Manager, LMAX

The interface makes it much easier for my team to manage user access compared with other products where you have to use text based config files."

Flexibility: The AppGate client can run on almost any type of platform including MAC, Windows, Linux and mobile phones. Employees can therefore work from home using their own PC's rather than taking company laptops home, which provides flexibility while also reducing the risk of laptops being lost or stolen. In addition, IT support staff on call can respond quickly wherever they are via remote access from their mobile phones.

IP tunneling means AppGate supports any protocol or application without limitations, so services such as remote desktop (RDP), desktop sharing (VNC) and file transfer (FTP) can be deployed.

Ease of use: "AppGate is very simple to install. We got everything up and running very quickly", says Boniface. "It's also very intuitive – with

very little training my technicians were able to modify functionality and add new users to the system. From the end user perspective, the simplicity is fantastic.

AppGate has been installed for only a couple of months and I'm already getting a lot of good feedback from the users about how easy it is compared to the old system. All they have to do is go to a web page and click on an icon and it gives them access to their desktop."

Future

Flexibility and scalability were important criteria for LMAX when they were evaluating possible solutions. "We needed a solution that would grow with us", says Boniface. "The AppGate system that we have now will support the business into the future. With other vendor solutions we would have to buy additional hardware if we wanted to add more users or services. With AppGate we have the functionality ready and waiting."

Key benefits

- Secure encrypted communications end-to-end as standard
- Supports a wide range of authentication methods and two-factor authentication
- Powerful, easy to use controls for managing which network resources each user can access
- Clustering across separate locations provides a high availability network and business continuity solution
- Integration with existing infrastructure
- Support for a wide range of client platforms
- Flexibility and scalability to support business needs as they change
- User friendly interface allows users to access applications easily with little training and support

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

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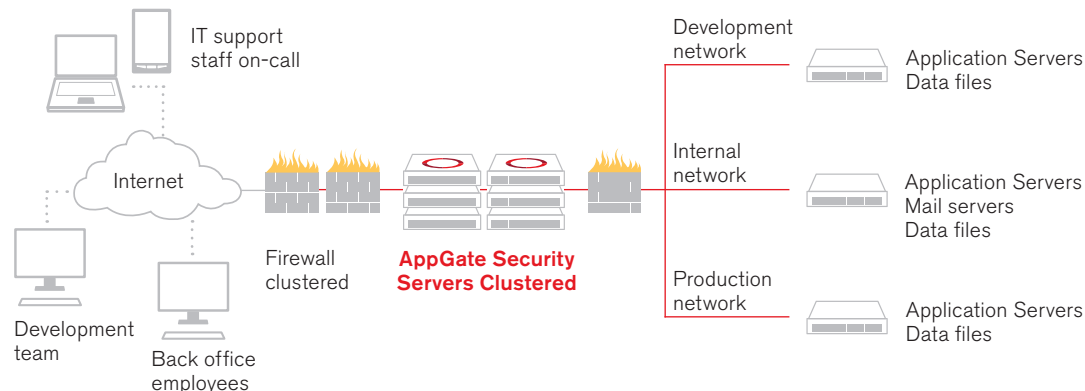
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