

**The Organization**

Northwoods Community Church  
10700 North Allen Road  
Peoria, IL 61615  
(309) 243-1550  
[www.nwoods.org](http://www.nwoods.org)

Northwoods Community Church (Northwoods), a member of the Fellowship of Evangelical Churches, serves a congregation of roughly 3,900 weekly churchgoers from the greater Peoria, Illinois, community with approximately 70 staff and 1600 volunteers. Northwoods' protects its network gateway with a SonicWALL® E-Class Network Security Appliance (NSA) E5500. The church has established a Clean VPN for secure remote access by combining the E5500 with a SonicWALL SSL-VPN 2000, and has deployed Clean Wireless using SonicWALL SonicPoint access points. The church also uses a SonicWALL Email Security (SES) appliance to block spam, and has recently upgraded to a SonicWALL Continuous Data Protection (CDP) 6080 appliance for backup and recovery.

SonicWALL spoke with Jason Lee, Northwoods' IT Director, about the church's security concerns, and how he has applied SonicWALL solutions to resolve them while still minimizing total cost of ownership (TCO).

**Q.: *What kind of security challenges do you face in your job today?***

**A.:** We have to guard against potential threats from viruses and other malicious code, as well as high volumes of spam, and that takes a lot of time to manage at the individual desktop level. So a primary reason we went with the E5500 was to utilize its Unified Threat Management at the firewall. That has freed up IT a lot.

**Q.: *How have you configured your Clean VPN environment at Northwoods?***

**A.:** Our E5500 firewall scans both inbound and outbound SSL VPN traffic using Gateway Antivirus, Anti-Spyware and Intrusion Prevention services. Even though they are trusted connections, we want to be sure we still have a line of protection at our perimeter.

**Q.: *What benefits have you received from your Clean VPN?***

**A.:** We have users traveling and working remotely needing access to our servers and data. Before I came on, Northwoods had terminal servers public-facing the Internet, but I had concerns with that. Providing clean and secure remote access to our networks offers a huge value to us.

**Q.: *In what ways have you extended that approach to a Clean Wireless environment?***

**A.:** We currently have 13 SonicPoints deployed to cover high-traffic areas of our campus. We apply Gateway Antivirus, Anti-Spyware and Intrusion Prevention services, as well as Content Filtering, to all inbound and outbound traffic on our wireless network.

**Q.: *What advantages has SonicWALL had over competitive products?***

**A.:** Being non-profit, we have limited resources, but our expectations are no different than a Fortune 500 company, and that's to utilize the best technology we can afford to help our team succeed. SonicWALL gives us security and performance that might be out of our budget's reach from a Cisco® or Juniper®. For example, right now we use the E5500 to secure traffic for three WAN connections coming over a T1 and two load-balanced cable modems, at the level of excellence our users require.

## Northwoods Community Church Case Study

*"Being non-profit, we have limited resources, but our expectations are no different than a Fortune 500 company, and that's to utilize the best technology we can afford to help our team succeed. SonicWALL gives us security and performance that might be out of our budget's reach from a Cisco or Juniper."*

—Jason Lee  
IT Director  
Northwoods Community Church

### **Q.: In what other ways has SonicWALL lowered your total cost of ownership (TCO)?**

**A.:** Mark Marino, the president of CM Support Services out of Elkhart, Indiana, has helped us make cost-effective choices. By selecting SonicWALL E-Class over a comparably featured Cisco or Juniper solution, we freed up budget to do things we otherwise wouldn't have been able to do. And using Unified Threat Management instead of separate services and servers from different vendors really lowers costs, and also eases budgeting and planning.

### **Q.: How are you using CDP?**

**A.:** We just upgraded to the 6080, but we've been using CDP for over two years to back up our entire infrastructure, including SQL, Exchange, Active Directory, file servers and other applications. The version control lets me choose to recover a file from 15 previously backed up versions in seconds with a click of the mouse, instead of having to hunt through tape archives. That has raised user expectations and trust in IT. We've also successfully used it to recover entire server systems. And now we can locally archive to a USB drive before purging any old data.

### **Q.: Where does SES fit into your infrastructure?**

**A.:** We use SES as our e-mail gateway for spam filtering and e-mail archiving. All inbound and outbound e-mail is processed by that unit. Also, SES lets us deal with spam on the appliance rather than on the Exchange Server.

## **Case Study Solution Spotlight**

### **SonicWALL E-Class Network Security Appliance (NSA) E5500**

The SonicWALL E-Class Network Security Appliance (NSA) E5500 is a high performance, multi-service network security platform engineered to be the workhorse of the enterprise network environment. Combining SonicWALL's Re-Assembly free Deep Packet Inspection™ engine with 8-core parallel processing architecture, the NSA E5500 delivers exceptional protection and performance at an unrivalled value.

### **SonicWALL SSL-VPN 2000**

The SonicWALL SSL-VPN 2000 provides small and mid-size organizations with an easy-to-use, secure and affordable remote access and remote support solution that requires no pre-installed client software. Utilizing a standard Web browser, authorized users such as employees, contractors, partners and customers, can easily and securely access e-mail, files, intranets, Web and legacy applications and remote desktops from any location.

### **SonicWALL Email Security**

SonicWALL Email Security is a self-running, self-updating solution, delivering powerful protection against spam, virus and phishing attacks in addition to preventing confidential information leaks and violation of internal e-mail policy and regulatory compliance laws. SonicWALL Email Security solutions provide powerful protection without complexity.

### **SonicWALL Continuous Data Protection (CDP)**

The SonicWALL Continuous Data Protection (CDP) Series offers the only complete end-to-end backup and recovery solution for SMBs. An ideal replacement for tape-based systems, CDP provides foolproof, intuitive, continuous protection.

#### **SonicWALL, Inc.**

1143 Borregas Avenue  
Sunnyvale CA 94089-1306

T +1 408.745.9600  
F +1 408.745.9300

[www.sonicwall.com](http://www.sonicwall.com)

