

**The Organization**

Canucks Sports & Entertainment  
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**The Challenge**

To deliver Olympic-class network security with minimum downtime

**The SonicWALL Solution**

- SonicWALL Network Security Appliance (NSA) 5000
- Multi-core architecture
- Reassembly-free Deep Packet Inspection™
- SonicWALL Gateway Antivirus, Anti-Spyware, Intrusion Prevention and Application Firewall

**The Results**

- Uncompromising performance
- High-speed Unified Threat Management
- Real-time internal and external network protection

Canucks Sports & Entertainment is the owner of the National Hockey League's Vancouver Canucks. Their home-ice arena, General Motors Place is one of North America's premier sports and entertainment venues. In a demanding market place, the Canucks organization is leveraging a state-of-the-art SonicWALL® Network Security Appliance (NSA) 5000 solution to deliver high-performance network security with minimum downtime.

**The challenge: securing Olympian-scale traffic with zero downtime**

During the business day, Canucks Sports & Entertainment runs a typical business; but in the evenings, it is anything but, hosting live-broadcast professional sporting events, business conventions and world-class concerts in an 18,630-seat capacity arena. Overseeing the technology to accommodate it all is IT Manager William Cheng. "We're not just running e-mail and word processing," said Cheng. "We've got arena operations, security systems, and physical access control systems."

As in many organizations, Cheng's network security requirements have evolved over the years. "We'd previously used Cisco® PIX, and were using Checkpoint® as a managed solution back in 2002," said Cheng, "but the turnaround for changes could be days when we needed it in hours." Cheng needed an in-house solution that was secure but flexible, so he switched to a SonicWALL PRO 3060. The PRO 3060 allowed Cheng to segment his LAN, WAN and DMZ and have three ports left to carve off for high speed concerts and business partners like Ticketmaster and Arrowmark.

Cheng applied the PRO 3060 to secure exceptionally high volumes of network traffic. For example, every hockey game is digitally recorded for analysis by the coaching staff, and embedded with informational metatags to assist in scouting. Another high volume channel is at merchandising points-of-sale during game intermissions. "We have twenty-three lanes of POS trying to push through a transaction every thirty seconds," said Cheng. "Any bottleneck can mean lost sales."

While the PRO 3060 provided the security Cheng needed, after five years he began to see a need for more capacity. "The PRO 3060 has been a great box, but our traffic just started hitting its threshold. With the upcoming Olympics, we can't afford any downtime."

## Canucks Sports and Entertainment Case Study

*"From my point of view, all organizations have to change over time. The NSA 5000 lets me deal with changes more quickly, reliably and cost-effectively."*

—William Cheng  
IT Manager  
Canucks Sports & Entertainment

### SonicWALL Benefits

- Minimized downtime
- Easy deployment and administration
- Future-proofed capacity

### The solution: SonicWALL Network Security Appliance (NSA) 5000

Cheng annually conducts third-party audits of his firewall, and had been consistently impressed with the results of his SonicWALL solution. "We considered all of our options," said Cheng, "but we chose to go with the SonicWALL NSA 5000."

The NSA 5000 is one of the SonicWALL next-generation Unified Threat Management firewalls. The solution combines high-speed intrusion prevention, file and content inspection and powerful application firewall capabilities with advanced networking, high availability and flexible configuration.

With technical assistance from Dyrand Systems®, Cheng migrated the system with no disruption to business. "We phased over at 7 o'clock one evening," said Cheng. "We had some minor tweaks in the morning, but were running smooth in about an hour. The beauty of it was that nobody noticed the change."

Cheng also appreciated the ease of administration. "It makes it easier to train staff, an easier thought process."

### The results: peace of mind

Before upgrading to the NSA 5000, throughput consumption was ranging near 60 percent. Now it is only in the single digits.

With a breakthrough multi-core hardware design, patented Reassembly-free Deep Packet Inspection™ (RFDPI) and six GbE interfaces, the NSA 5000 enables Cheng to ensure real-time internal and external network protection without compromising performance.

Cheng relies on SonicWALL ViewPoint™ reporting to keep him informed on ongoing network issues. "Viewpoint is a great tool that gives us a view of our bandwidth trending, shows us whether we need to address it, and makes it easier to communicate issues with management."

"From my point of view, all organizations have to change over time," said Cheng, "The NSA 5000 lets me deal with changes more quickly, reliably and cost-effectively."

### The future:

Cheng's primary ongoing commitment is to the home team Vancouver Canucks—and their fans. New technology has helped the team improve its coaching and scouting capabilities. "The NSA 5000 gives our infrastructure the high-performance security we need to reach our goals," said Cheng.

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