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# SONICWALL HELPS RHONDDA HOUSING ASSOCIATION EXPAND ITS SERVICES IN THE VALLEYS

**Rhondda Housing Association (RHA) confidently upgrades its SonicWall next generation security solution and doesn't look back**

## Business need

Rhondda Housing Association's significant growth, awareness of cyber threat attacks in the industry and need to prepare for new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) culminated in the need for a more powerful security system.

## Solution

A pair of SonicWall NSA 3600 Firewalls in high availability mode, together with the SonicWall Advanced Gateway Security Suite (AGSS) and SonicWall Analyzer Reporter Software provided a granular, powerful security solution with the capacity for further expansion moving forward.

## Benefits

- Easy to setup, configure and manage
- Faster broadband and high availability for increased productivity
- Far deeper level of security to safeguard customer data at all times
- Increased visibility and monitoring of user activity
- Detailed reporting to enable GDPR compliancy

## Solutions at a glance

- Next Generation Firewalls
- Management & Reporting Software

"I now have complete peace of mind, performance levels have surpassed my expectations and SonicWall's granular levels of control means we are also well on the way to being ready for the new GDPR legislation. This is a real bonus and will free up our time to focus on other aspects of the business."

**NIGEL LEE, IT MANAGER, RHONDDA HOUSING ASSOCIATION.**



working together for a brighter future

## CUSTOMER PROFILE

| | |
|---|---|
| **Company** | Rhondda Housing Association |
| **Industry** | Housing |
| **Country** | UK |
| **Employees** | 64 |
| **Website** | www.rhondda.org |

Rhondda Housing Association is able to deploy all the services available within SonicWall AGSS. This provides a single integrated package of security technologies designed to stop known threats and secures its network at the gateway.

RHA is a not for profit social landlord that has strong links within the communities it serves. It provides high quality, sustainable housing support and regeneration solutions, and manages over 1,700 homes. The association has grown over the last 38 years from its humble origins – a semi house shared with Oxfam - to new offices that were built in 2008, which accommodates its 64 members of staff in the valleys of South Wales.

**Keeping customer data safe is paramount for RHA**

RHA was very familiar with SonicWall products and had used one of its firewalls for a number of years. The previous firewall had worked efficiently, safeguarding the system against outside threats, but it did not have the capacity for further growth moving forward. RHA had also witnessed other organisations in the same sector suffer from the crippling effects of ransomware and zero day threats and it was this very real concern that prompted the decision to upgrade its network infrastructure.

RHA called upon Circle IT, it's trusted IT supplier who works alongside RHA's own IT department to ensure the smooth running of its systems. Circle IT looked at a number of options and decided that the most intuitive, powerful and cost effective long-term solution for RHA was a pair of SonicWall NSA 3600 Series Firewalls in High Availability, the SonicWall Advanced Gateway Security Suite (AGSS) and the SonicWall Analyzer Reporting Software.

**The SonicWall NSA 3600 surpasses traditional single-core ASIC processors**

Jeremy Williams, Key Account Manager at Circle IT explained; "The SonicWall NSA 3600 delivers a multi-core design that ensures deep-packet inspection that could be scaled easily for RHA's future growth. In particular, it gave us the ability to add bandwidth management; application blocking; and connectivity and security capabilities such as a multi-engine sandbox (Capture ATP), SSL VPN, IPSec VPN, content filtering, anti-virus, and anti-spam. The RFDPI™ engine inspects every byte of every packet and scans all network traffic, regardless of port or protocol. Real-time SSL decryption and inspection enables you to visualise and control application traffic as it crosses the network. The NSA 3600 firewall also has access to a continually updated cloud database that has more than 12.6 million variants of malware to protect RHA from emerging threats."

As well as optimum security, Circle IT also wanted to give RHA the ability to manage and control what individuals and user groups do on the network in readiness for GDPR legislation. The government's legal requirements are predominantly around data leaving the premises, however, organisations don't just need to be able to find data and make sure it's not leaked, they also need to be able to capture the context of data and be able to prove that everything is being done to protect the subject's data and the rights of the subject itself. With 100% compliance required on May 25, 2018, and fines of up to 4% of global annual turnover for non-compliance, it is crucial for RHA to get up-to-speed on this.

With the combined solution of the SonicWall NSA 3600 and Analyzer software this enables adoption of an

**Products & Services**

**Hardware**

SonicWall NSA 3600 Next Generation Firewall

**Software**

SonicWall Analyzer Reporting Software

SonicWall Advanced Gateway Security Suite

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adaptive, user-centric, layered security model approach around the tenets of, detect, respond and predict. To be GDPR-compliant, customers need security solutions that enable them to prevent attacks, detect a potentially dangerous presence in their networks, respond quickly to that threat, and analyze and report on the health of their networks in real time.

RHA is able to deploy all the services available within SonicWall AGSS. This provides a single integrated package of security technologies designed to stop known and unknown threats and secures its network at the gateway against threats such as intrusions, viruses, spyware, worms, Trojans, adware, keyloggers, malicious mobile code (MMC), and other dangerous applications for total protection in a convenient, affordable subscription-based service.

It also helps administrators control and manage both business and non-business related applications with granular, application-specific policies providing application classification and policy enforcement.

### It was extremely easy to upgrade the system.

Circle IT was able to copy the configurations from the original firewall. This was carried out offsite, beforehand. The new firewalls were then placed into the server room at the weekend and they were run in parallel to the old systems for a short period. The old appliance was then switched off and tests were ran to check it worked properly, which it did. The SonicWall Net Extender Client was also deployed, which enabled users to access the system remotely. This took just a minute to install.

There were absolutely no interruptions to business. When staff arrived on Monday morning they were completely unaware of the changes.  Performance levels were totally unaffected and websites loaded quickly still.

### Extra set of eyes provide complete peace of mind

Nigel Lee, IT Manager, Rhondda Housing Association, enthused; "We are very happy with the new system and confident that we are safe from outside threats.  SonicWall Capture has the ability to block unknown threats from clear and encrypted traffic, which is extremely important."

The SonicWall NSA 3600 generation 6 product is capable of scanning all bytes of every packet of all network traffic, providing complete application identification and control, regardless of port or protocol.  In addition SonicWall Capture services are being used to protect against zero day threats such as ransomware with great effect.

"The SonicWall NSA 3600 delivers a multi-core design that ensures deep-packet inspection that could be scaled easily for RHA's future growth."

**JEREMY WILLIAMS, KEY ACCOUNT MANAGER AT CIRCLE IT**

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