SonicWALL®

SonicWall NetExtender

Deliver seamless, secure network layer access from anywhere.

Abstract

While pre-configured or "fat" client is preferential for most network users, many IT organizations are making the switch to a thin client or SSL VPN model in order to reduce costs and better protect their network from security risks. Unlike a fat clients or IPSec VPN, thin client enables remote users to access the network from any computer equipped with an Internet connection and standard web browser.

No longer are remote users limited to using specially-configured laptops provided by the IT department, as is the case with more traditional VPN models. IPSec VPN may be especially useful in areas where the IT administrator tightly controls and manages only a small number of remote workstations, while with fat client VPN systems administrators can allow users to have a greater level of access. However, users now can have the best of both worlds with SonicWall™ NetExtender thin client technology for Secure Mobile Access 100, TZ, NSa and NSv families. The tech brief below explains how.

Introduction

With SonicWall NetExtender, users enjoy seamless and secure network layer access to the intranet, file, desktop and terminal resources, including Microsoft® Outlook® and Microsoft Office 365. Pushed transparently onto the client's desktop, laptop or smartphone, the thin client enhances users' capabilities and significantly reduces the IT administrative costs and time required to maintain and manage remote access.

SonicWall NetExtender

Simplified and secure end user access for anywhere, NetExtender adds more power to the SonicWall SMA 100 and firewalls, adding capabilities such as seamless and secure access to any resource on the corporate network including servers or custom applications. Unlike a fat client, NetExtender extends thin client transparently to the client's desktop or laptop, and installs it automatically to facilitate this broader level of access. It assigns remote users an IP address from a preset pool of IP addresses, enabling them to access any

TCP/IP-based resource on the corporate network including a wide variety of legacy applications and services. Remote users gain Layer-3 level access to the protected internal network.

The user experience is similar to that of a traditional IPSec VPN client, except that manual client installation is not required. Additionally, users do not have to worry about Network Address Translation (NAT) devices and proxies, which are the bane of traditional IPSec-based VPNs.

NetExtender creates a virtual adapter for secure point-to-point access to any allowed host or subnet on the internal network. Unlike the stateless nature of the traditional SSL VPN, NetExtender stays resident on the client machine even after the connection is closed.

The advantage of running NetExtender as a resident application on the remote system is that it speeds up login times in subsequent uses. Of course, if a remote user chooses to deploy the standalone NetExtender client on their remote machine, but later logs in from a separate machine, he or she can still gain access with no problems at all.

Users can access NetExtender easily in the traditional way from any machine using the browser portal. They can also select the Uninstall on browser exit option to have NetExtender remove itself after the session ends.

Extend network access through native clients.

With NetExtender technology, remote users will gain: Access to email through native clients residing on the user's laptop, including everything from Microsoft® Outlook to commercial or property applications and flexible network access.

Enforce granular access control policies.

By deploying the SonicWall NetExtender, along with SonicWall Capture Client, on the remote workstations, administrators can enforce a policy that requires every remote workstation that accesses the network to have current versions of anti-virus and anti-spyware software up and running.

Multiple NetExtender IP range and route support, permits the administrator to impose granular access control policies by assigning specific IP addresses or ranges of IP addresses, and specific routes to individual users or groups. This feature also helps to provide control that is more granular over who can access which network resources through NetExtender.

Enhance firewall encryption and security.

SonicWall Secure Mobile Access 100 provides a high level of security on its own. Besides the encryption that is inherent to the SSL model, the personalized SonicWall web portal enforces a high level of granularity for each user that the administrator controls. The SMA 100 Series appliance grants remote users access only to authorized areas through the portal. NetExtender also provides enhanced security benefits. With NetExtender, you can force all client traffic through the SSL VPN tunnel, and apply all security services that are running on your primary SonicWall Network Security Appliance (NSA) or SonicWall TZ Series firewall — including enforcement of the SonicWall host-based, anti-virus solution.

Versatile, bidirectional support for remote Windows and Linux clients.

While the application proxies support specific protocols such as FTP, HTTP, RDP or VNC, NetExtender is not protocol specific. Rather, it can support any TCP/IP-based application that is running on the local client. Besides extended access, this also means that communications are bidirectional. In other words, the remote client can initiate communications with a host on the internal network, and the reverse is also true — hosts on the internal network can also initiate communications with the remote PC. This functionality is particularly useful for management and administration of remote PCs.

Flexible support for multiple platforms.

Available as a standalone application for all appliances, the NetExtender client can be launched through the SonicWall Virtual Office web portal, or as a native application on Windows® and Linux® PCs and laptops, to access any authorized resource on the corporate network.

NetExtender utilizes a standard interface across all SSL VPN clients, creating a unified look and feel. Support for multiple platforms provides users with greater flexibility to access remote resources from various endpoints. Initial distribution of NetExtender is either through the SonicWall Virtual Office portal or via a standalone installer. After initial distribution, users can launch NetExtender independently as a standard application. The NetExtender client supports domain login scripts, and implements a custom dialer that allows launch from the Windows Network Connections menu.

For mobile devices and operating systems, SonicWall Mobile Connect™, a single unified client app for Apple® iOS, mac OS, Google® Android™, Chrome OS and Windows, provides smartphone, tablet, laptop and desktop users network-level access to corporate and academic resources over encrypted SSL VPN connections.

Partner Enabled Services

Need help to plan, deploy or optimize your SonicWall solution? SonicWall Advanced Services Partners are trained to provide you with world class professional services. Learn more at www.sonicwall.com/PES

About SonicWall

SonicWall delivers Boundless Cybersecurity for the hyper-distributed era and a work reality where everyone is remote, mobile and unsecure. By knowing the unknown, providing real-time visibility and enabling breakthrough economics, SonicWall closes the cybersecurity business gap for enterprises, governments and SMBs worldwide. For more information, visit www.sonicwall.com

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