

Getty Images readies for Olympics with SonicWall

By deploying E-Class NSA firewall, Getty Images speeds digital photo traffic



Customer profile

gettyimages®

Company Getty Images
Industry Digital Media
Country United Kingdom
Users 100+ corporate customers
Website www.gettyimages.com

Challenge

- High pressure deployment deadlines
- Heavy throughput requirements
- Inherently insecure physical environments

Solution

- SonicWall E-Class NSA E5500
- SonicWall NSA 3500
- SonicWall NSA 240
- SonicWall TZ 210

Benefits

- Reassembly-Free Deep Packet Inspection
- Multi-core processing architecture
- Gateway anti-virus, anti-spyware, anti-spam
- Intrusion prevention and content filtering
- Application intelligence and control
- High availability

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Gerard McGovern Manager of Events

As a leading creator and distributor of still imagery, footage, music and other premium content, Getty Images offers the industry's best and broadest collections of imagery and footage, including award-winning news, sports and entertainment content, plus rare and contemporary archival imagery. Getty Images has selected SonicWall® Next-Generation Firewalls to deliver the security, performance and ease-of-management they need to cover high-profile global events, such as the Royal Wedding, FIFA™ World Cup and London 2012 Olympics®.

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Gerard McGovern
Manager of Events

The challenge: large volumes of data, high-throughput and vulnerable, changing environment

“We build mini-offices on site, with up to 150 end users, including photographers, editors, technicians and managers,” said Gerard McGovern, manager of events at Getty Images.

Ease of deployment is crucial.

“The sports industry is the highest-pressure environment that I have ever worked in,” declared McGovern. “The events start whether you are ready or not. Whatever is happening, you need to get the photos out.”

At the same time, throughput is at a premium.

“We can have as many as 70 photographers that need to plug in their laptops and send photos as quickly as possible,” explained McGovern. “We need as much bandwidth as we can get our hands on.”

Still, security is paramount.

“We are much more vulnerable,” acknowledged McGovern. “Outdoor events do not have the same level of physical security you have in an office. Connections might be in the middle of spectator seating area where you have no control.”

McGovern needed a network security solution that could handle the challenging security demands of the company's field operations.

“The solution had to offer a balance between simplicity and security,” noted McGovern.

After considering Cisco® and WatchGuard® products, McGovern selected a SonicWall solution.

“SonicWall was the best by miles. It offered next-generation threat protection, plus anti-virus, anti-malware and intrusion prevention— all on the fly, and at very high speeds,” remarked McGovern. “Nothing else came close.”

The solution: SonicWall E-Class NSA, NSA and TZ Series

At its London, New York and Seattle offices, Getty Images deployed SonicWall Network Security Appliance (NSA) 240 firewalls to establish secure connections to and from its event site networks, as well as add VPN tunnel capabilities to ensure secure remote transmission of digital photographs. The company also uses SonicWall SonicPoint access points to establish secure wireless connectivity, both purchased through solution provider AIS.

“AIS have been a key partner in our selection of SonicWall equipment,” noted McGovern. “From pre-sales support to very fast turnarounds of orders, they have been there every step of the way of our SonicWall journey.”

At the Royal Wedding, Getty Images deployed two SonicWall TZ 210 appliances on site.

"Every photo Getty Images took from the Royal Wedding came across our SonicWall TZ 210s," reported McGovern.

For the FIFA World Cup in South Africa, Getty Images deployed paired SonicWall NSA 3500 Next-Generation Firewalls to protect a hub-and-spoke fibre network based in Johannesburg. The network radiated out across 100-megabyte connections to multiple stadiums across South Africa, as well as connecting back to its London office.

"At the World Cup, we transmitted four terabytes of photos across our NSA 3500s."

SonicWall will also support Getty Images' deployment at the London 2012 Olympics. Getty Images plans to implement SonicWall E-Class NSA E5500 Next-Generation Firewalls.

"The Olympic venues are far more open than a football stadium. And unlike during the World Cup, potential attackers will have access to more technology," added McGovern.

The results: reading an Olympic performance

"London is the World Cup times four," related McGovern. "We also have a direct fibre link to our London office, so that means SonicWall will protect those 3,000 corporate users as well."

McGovern's team needs to secure a gigabyte network across 26 venues transmitting 16 terabytes of photos, as well as administrative and VoIP file traffic."

"The amount of data we push across our SonicWall firewalls is massive," insisted McGovern. "We really hammer it more than you would in a typical corporate environment, and it performs exactly as advertised. We are talking serious, serious speeds."

To equip field operations with the performance it requires, each NSA E5500 combines SonicWall Reassembly-Free Deep Packet Inspection® (RFDPI) with a powerful multi-core hardware platform, for up to 3.9 Gbps stateful throughput.

"SonicWall gives us complete confidence that we can stop any intrusion or attack before it can do any form of damage," acknowledged McGovern. "Plus, SonicWall's content filtering lets us allow basic web access to news sites, but ensures no one will be using our bandwidth for anything illegal or activities that might compromise our network."

To give Getty Images the security it needs, the NSA E5500 delivers gateway anti-virus, anti-spyware, intrusion prevention, anti-spam and content filtering and is configurable to analyze and control thousands of unique applications, whether unencrypted or encrypted with SSL. By pairing SonicWall devices in High Availability mode, McGovern can ensure continuity of service with automatic failover.

"Even if one physically died, the other would carry on. It is good to know we can survive if anything goes wrong," affirmed McGovern. "SonicWall is so simple and it just works. That is why we use it."

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Manager of Events*

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