

La Perla streamlines secure global networking with SonicWall

Apparel retailer gives worldwide offices and boutiques easy, secure access to headquarters resources



Customer profile

LA PERLA

Company	Gruppo La Perla SpA
Industry	Retail Apparel
Country	Italy
Employees	1,200
Website	www.laperla.com

Challenge

- Expansive growth
- Demand for remote access
- Minimal learning curve

Solution

- SonicWall™ NSA Series
- SonicWall SRA Series
- SonicWall GMS

Benefits

- SonicWall Comprehensive Gateway Security Services
- Cohesive web-based management interface
- SonicWall 24x7 Support

“We needed a secure and flexible solution that could scale with La Perla’s worldwide growth.”

Mauro Ruscelli
Network and Security Expert

Founded in Bologna, Italy, in 1954 as a corsetry boutique, Gruppo La Perla SpA (La Perla) offers luxury lingerie, nightwear, menswear, swimwear and fragrance products at its retail boutiques and at major department stores worldwide. La Perla has implemented SonicWall Network Security Appliance (NSA) and TZ Series, Secure Remote Access (SRA) Series and Global Management System (GMS®) solutions, resulting in easily managed, secure connectivity for its globally distributed enterprise. .

“Secure communications and a secure business infrastructure are a priority for our Group and we found that SonicWall products meet our requirements perfectly.”

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The challenge: link distributed offices and boutiques securely and efficiently

As the company has grown, operations have been set up in different countries to serve other parts of the world and new boutiques have opened in the world's fashion capitals. Each of these international offices needs to communicate with head office servers on a daily basis to check logistics and order management issues and retrieve centrally managed documentation, such as company email.

The company sought a solution that would include a firewall in every office and boutique, with the ability to connect over Virtual Private Network (VPN) with a data center in Bologna. As a result, all remote offices would be able to connect to the head office central mainframe and use shared resources in accordance with their assigned privileges.

The solution: SonicWall NSA, TZ, SRA and GMS

La Perla turned to professional system integrator System Service in Bologna and SonicWall in order to build a solution capable of meeting its communication needs.

“Secure communications and a secure business infrastructure are a priority for our Group. We found that SonicWall products meet our requirements perfectly,” said Mauro Ruscelli, network and security expert at La Perla.

The head office currently uses two NSA 4500 firewalls in a High Availability

cluster configuration, guaranteeing maximum operability in the event of an appliance hardware failure. Remote offices use SonicWall NSA 3500 and NSA 2400 appliances. Boutiques are connected through smaller firewalls, ranging in size from the SonicWall TZ 180 to NSA 250. Deployable as either a Next-Generation Firewall or UTM Firewall, NSA solutions offer breakthrough performance, intrusion prevention, malware protection, and application intelligence, control and visualization.

There is also an SRA appliance at the head office providing a secure connection to the corporate network from individual endpoints. Current SRA solutions offer clientless and tunnel access for Windows®, Windows Mobile, Apple® Mac OS®, iOS, Linux®, and Google Android™, plus optional Web Application Firewall and multi-platform remote support. Administrators can assign granular access controls, depending on whether the user is dialing in from an Internet cafe at Chicago airport or a hotel room in Buenos Aires.

To control it all, La Perla deployed SonicWall GMS. GMS provides La Perla with a flexible, powerful and intuitive solution to centrally manage its SonicWall firewall and secure remote access solutions.

The result: easily managed, secure global network

The SonicWall firewalls installed in all offices and boutiques around the world offer remote operators a secure,

reliable connection via SonicWall Clean VPN™ technology and access to shared applications and resources that are managed centrally. Clean VPN delivers the critical dual protection of SSL VPN and high-performance Next-Generation Firewall necessary to secure both VPN access and traffic. The SonicWall SRA appliance also provides road warriors remote access while in the field.

New remote nodes join the La Perla Group business network every day, but with SonicWall and System Service, they can be connected safely and easily, guaranteeing the security and business continuity and keeping infrastructural connectivity problems to a minimum.

The SonicWall solutions provide La Perla with a flexible, high-performance infrastructure allowing boutiques around the world to connect to central servers in transparent mode. The entire infrastructure – which was realized with the valuable and expert contribution of System Service – allows La Perla to achieve enhanced security, both internal and external, while assuring interconnectivity between various network nodes.

The centralized GMS solution allows the IT administration team working from the Bologna headquarters to retain full control over all remote firewalls, using regular reports on network activity. A dashboard provides a general overview of the network and can be set up to give real-time warnings of connection faults in remote nodes, letting the IT team eliminate single points of failure swiftly and accurately. IT administrators can also view the global network in real time, 24/7, via GMS, which monitors and controls the entire landscape.

Over time, different types of connection modes have been gradually introduced, from simple site-to-site through hub-and-spoke to full mesh. Each configuration can be managed centrally to meet varying requirements and modified by a simple mouse click in the web management interface common to all SonicWall firewalls. That provides a significant advantage in this dynamic, constantly evolving environment by minimizing the learning curve for IT administrators. In less than half an hour, anyone can have a firewall up and running by using the web interface.

SonicWall's Dynamic Support 24x7 service offers firmware updates for all appliances and ensures advance exchange hardware replacement in the event of a failure. Over time, this service has proved critical on more than one occasion, enabling maximum operability of all nodes and quickly resolving any issues that have emerged.

“SonicWall GMS allowed us to streamline management for our distributed network of stores, and in doing so, free up resources and time for other IT initiatives.”

*Mauro Ruscelli
Network and Security Expert*

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