

Case Study:

Increasing Network Security

Business Issue

A small printing company has a consumer grade Netgear firewall product. They have experienced some attempted hacking on their server. In this example someone attempted to perform a Remote Desktop connection to the server. This would be a serious breach of security to this company who handles lots of data for their clients.

Solution

The solution to this problem is to replace the Netgear product with a Cisco ASA 5501 security appliance. The Cisco product is much more robust and is infinitely more configurable. The Cisco ASA will allow:

- ACL's to control inbound and outbound traffic of all types. The Netgear will not.
- An ACL can be created to block all inbound traffic from the hacker's location if desired
- Additional software can be installed on the Cisco appliance to inspect traffic for viruses and spyware before it enters the internal network if desired
- Software can also be installed to monitor and/or restrict web sites visited
- The configuration can be updated at will to adjust for the changing needs of a growing company, or to block a particular threat

Results

This results in a much more secure network. The company was able to block access from the IP range where the hacker was located. The additional configurability of the Cisco ASA provides greater control over all Internet traffic, which results in greater peace of mind for company owners, and forces more productivity from employees.



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