

Highly Available Swiss Bank Accounts!



The continual introduction of technology and the development of the Internet has increased competition among banking organisations and has encouraged the formulation of new banking products and services to become accessible to both personal and business customers through electronic distribution otherwise known as e-banking.

To help banks and finance institutions to keep abreast of the latest IT technology, RTC AG (Real-Time Center), IT outsourcing and banking software specialists have developed IBIS, an applications platform which allows end users to manage and process various IT products and services depending on their individual requirements, without the need

to invest in costly new technology and training. It is not only the banking industry who has increased the challenges faced by their IT systems, Swiss central and local governmental administrations as well as larger municipalities have also begun to make high and often very specific demands against the IT infrastructure.

RTC's products and services also help government bodies to overcome problems resulting from the geographical distribution of IT networks, the vast array of system requirements to carry out increasingly complex tasks and the general security of their IT systems.

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confidence.



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*Maximillian Hoesle
Leiter Betrieb Security, RTC*

Battling with Poor Reliability

The comprehensive security management of RTC is based on many years of experience and close cooperation with their customers. RTC's security policy is to offer their customers a two-tier firewall system: one firewall to protect the internal application level zone and a second firewall, which operates as an Internet perimeter gateway – for increased security – both firewalls coming from different vendors.

The company had originally two firewalls from two leading manufacturers but found one firewall in particular to be troublesome technically. "There were a lot of operational problems with one of the existing firewalls and the technical support from the vendor was very poor", explains Maximillian Hoesle, Security Specialist at RTC.

"To compound problems even more the product went end of life without any official notice from the manufacturer and without any clear migration path to an alternative product. We felt as if we had been left stranded!" Before looking for another vendor RTC listed the requirements they would expect of the new firewall; software solution, reliable, highly available and easy to administer. They then began to evaluate a number of solutions to see which met their high standards.

Built-In Functionalities

RTC was already a satisfied user of StoneBeat load balancing and high availability software and as this was an integral part of the StoneGate firewall and VPN solution they were keen to put it to the test. "StoneBeat ran well and is still running well today. It was a logical decision, once StoneGate successfully passed our product testing, to replace one of our existing firewall solutions with the StoneGate solution," says Hoesle.

"We have found a lot of our customers' technical requirements are met by the functionalities, which StoneGate offers as standard and that other vendors would charge as extra. The total cost of ownership of our security system has been reduced by StoneGate, both by the number of features already included in the product as standard and by the number of new features which are on the road map to be included in future releases."

StoneGate comprises a reinforced firewall offering powerful network security with built-in high availability and load balancing for continuous firewall uptime, a virtual private network powered by multi-link technology for redundant, always-on Internet connections to multiple Internet Service Providers (ISP), a high availability function which enables customisable clustering for continuous load balancing of

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firewall, Internet connections, VPN, Web servers, and other information services and its own hardened Linux operating system.

Ease of Deployment

The first firewall replacement was carried out in 2002. The planning, rollout, configuration and testing of an enterprise cluster took about 4 to 5 working days per customer firewall. "We found StoneGate very quick and simple to install, in fact much easier than both the other firewalls we have experienced," recounts Hoesle. "The remote update/upgrade functionality combined with the fall back feature has saved us a lot of time and organisational overheads.

With StoneGate, because the OS, firewall, load balancing and high availability are all integrated there is no patch management for the separate functions – this has been a huge benefit to the system management".

"We see StoneGate as a high quality firewall and VPN which is a very well designed, well implemented security solution and extremely stable giving us the high availability we required. Everything that we, and our customers were expecting from a 'real' security product has been fulfilled. If you are thinking about moving from a legacy firewall, I believe that StoneGate provides the best 'bullet proof' migration scenario from any other firewall product," concludes Hoesle.

RTC in Brief

RTC has successfully offered software products and IT-outsourcing solutions for over 30 years. Its customers include banks, service providers, administrative departments, and governmental organizations. Having developed IBIS, a standard solution for banks, as well as the desktop- and system-management product RENO Suite, RTC has gathered extensive knowledge in the migration and management of large bank applications and in operating mainframe systems and server environments. RTC provides know-how in designing and managing complex networks, up to the highest level of security solutions including firewalls. Filing- and backup-services, a fully equipped printing and shipping centre, and comprehensive education- and helpdesk services complete RTC's portfolio.

RTC's headquarter is located in Bern-Liebefeld with an additional branch office in Zurich. Two data centers are maintained by RTC in the Bern area. With approximately 400 employees RTC generated a total revenue of 135 Mio. CHF in the year 2002. RTC operates in accord with the internationally accepted security standard and was the first company in Switzerland to receive BS7799-2:2002 certification. The security standard was implemented into the existing ISO 9001:2000 certified management system.

STONESOFT EXPERIENCE

Stonesoft Corporation (HEX: SFT1V) is an innovative provider of integrated network security and business continuity. Its StoneGate™ Security Platform unifies firewall, VPN and IPS, blending network security and end-to-end availability into a unified and centrally managed system for distributed enterprises where security, uptime, and ease of use are essential. StoneGate incorporates the award-winning load-balancing technology of StoneBeat®.

Enterprises that require advanced network security and always-on business connectivity can choose StoneGate for low TCO, best price-to-performance ratio, and highest ROI of any high-end firewall, VPN and IPS solution.

Founded in 1990, Stonesoft Corporation has corporate headquarters in Helsinki, Finland; Americas regional headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia; and Asia Pacific regional headquarters in Singapore. For more information, go to www.stonesoft.com.



THE STONEGATE PLATFORM

As the first highly available, load balancing network security solution of its kind, StoneGate sets a new standard for FW, VPN and Intrusion solutions. StoneGate provides a unified security platform with active-active clustering, load balancing and bandwidth aggregation for multiple Internet links and ability to transparently fail-over VPNs, all with the security and connectivity of an integrated FW/VPN.

- **Multi-Link Technology™** – Seamless fail-over between multiple ISPs and FW clusters for always-on connections
- **Increased Performance** – Analyzes and utilizes fastest possible connection through integrated intelligent load balancing between ISPs and FWs.
- **Multi-Layer Inspection™** – Combines the best aspects of application proxy firewalls with traditional packet filtering and stateful inspection technologies
- **Reduce Costs** – Eliminate network complexities and costs associated with multiple vendor solutions and travel time
- **Unified, Central Management** – Robust remote management, along with simple remote update, alert center management, reporting, diagram editor and hierarchy policy updates. Also integrates FW and VPN with StoneGate's IDS Plus solution into a unified platform.

StoneGate is available either as a software-based solution that capitalizes on existing hardware investments, or as Stonesoft's own integrated appliance eliminating complexity and costs associated with multiple-vendor solutions. All of Stonesoft's appliances include the standard enterprise level features with the only difference being the number of physical interfaces and performance level.

STONESOFT
www.stonesoft.com

Stonesoft Corporation (HEX: SFT1V)
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network security and business continuity.

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