

“With Multi-Link, the ISP is no longer a potential point of failure. That adds tremendously to our ability to ensure that our customers have continuous, secure access to their information,” says Lasch. “Also—and this is extremely valuable to our breed of distributed computing—Multi-Link enhances the VPN by purposefully selecting VPN tunnel paths across multiple ISPs based on fastest route. This ensures that we get maximum performance and security.”

StoneGate also succeeds in integrating a number of traditionally separate functions. Networks have usually featured disparate devices that provide and secure the network access point. These devices are commonly sourced from multiple vendors, with significant technology risk in systems integration, life cycle management and expense. StoneGate eliminates these risks by combining, in a single software product, a full array of network confidence capabilities including firewall, VPN, load balancing and high availability protection. Moreover, the entire solution is managed within a single interface, for both local and distributed applications.

“We found the user interface very attractive in our initial demonstration, and it actually helped to speed our implementation time,” says J. Brad Fultz, eGesso’s Senior Application Developer. “The ability to visualize the configuration on-screen and make drag-and-drop

changes is so much easier than dealing with text strings. I found that I really needed virtually no expertise in firewall installation, only an understanding of how we wanted our network to work and behave. The user interface also makes it extremely easy to enable new types of Web traffic without having to redesign or even reinstall the firewall system, like some solutions require. There is simply no instance in which we have to take StoneGate down.”

In another discovery of StoneGate’s value-added capabilities, eGesso found that StoneGate’s approach to distributed security allows for the true sharing of sensitive information, not just information display in read-only formats. Because of this, client companies are able to enter information directly through the eGesso website extranet, rather than having to send forms for data processing. The result is much faster data collection, directly from the data originator.

“Two of our New York clients unfortunately were directly involved in the 9/11 tragedy,” says Lasch. “Because we were handling their information with historical and real-time transactions, our data warehouses were current with them up to the instant of their IT infrastructure loss, rather than within days or weeks. The value of that to the rebuilding of their businesses cannot be overstated.”

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