



SECURING A HOST ISP AND ITS WIDE AREA NETWORK

Imprimeries IPS's printing business has been evolving since 1965 to become today a major player in the fields of digital printing, publication of periodicals and the hosting of websites dedicated to classified ads. The IPS group has more than 700 employees over 15 sites and boasts several hundred publications.

- SECURING THE HOST PLATFORM AND WAN SIMULTANEOUSLY
- REDUCING ADMINISTRATION COSTS AND IMPROVING PRODUCTIVITY
- A NETWORK THAT EVOLVES THROUGH ADAPTED SECURITY SOLUTIONS
- VISIBLE CLIENT BENEFITS

Interview with Jean-Marie ARIES Network and Systems Manager at Imprimeries IPS

SECURING THE HOST PLATFORM AND WAN SIMULTANEOUSLY

Imprimeries IPS's specific goal is to provide clients with a full range of services.

Through its 15 sites spread out around France, IPS printing houses offer quality service in press, prepress and printing. For several years now, Imprimeries IPS has widened its scope of business to include website hosting as well.

Essentially, this service consists of hosting sites such as www.topannonces.fr and www.logicimmo.fr which display classified ads that appear in namesake publications.

"As of 2001, the year in which we started our web activity, our need for the security and protection of sensitive data has increased," stated Jean-Marie Ariès.

Initially hosted by an operator, the platform was then integrated into the IPS infrastructure. It now comprises around ten French and international websites.

"Due to the nature and frequency of transactions, the host platform has to be accessible 24-7, therefore strategic firewalls need to operate in redundancy," added Jean-Marie Ariès.

Moreover, the Imprimeries IPS head office is the focal hub of the other national branches and securely interconnects 14 other locations and ensures internet access for all its users.

"ASQ's alarm classification facilitates the notification and treatment of errors."

Jean-Marie Ariès
Network and Systems Manager

The different networks are completely partitioned in order to ensure maximum security. Internal teams administer the architecture fully using NETASQ administration suite tools.

SIMPLIFYING AND REDUCING ADMINISTRATION COSTS

The global solution that protect Imprimeries IPS's 3 major network (WAN, internet, website host) is administered from a central point at the group's head office.

Easy-to-use administration tools mean bandwidth is enhanced by the accurate identification of traffic that passes through the WAN.

"We installed NETASQ's VPN with a public key/private key architecture for our mobile users, as well as for our IT staff in order to perform remote operations," said Jean-Marie Ariès.

These VPN features coupled with the simplicity of the tools in the administration suite, according to Jean-Marie Ariès, have played a part in reducing operating costs.

The simplicity of the software program has also meant the easy transfer of knowledge and the possibility of treating alarms remotely in the ever busy schedules make on-site treatment inconvenient.

IPS printing houses pay particular attention to the supervision of activity logs. The NETASQ Firewall Reporter module has proven to be particularly easy to use with the classification of alarms by category.

Since the hosting activity carried out by IPS printing houses continues to develop, alarms are frequently raised and generated a tremendous amount of logs, which will then be filtered and very regularly analyzed in order to spot any potential attacks.

This solution is perfectly in line with the implemented security policy and does not require any radical change.

“When choosing a product, the major factors to consider are the quality of the service, proactiveness and skills,” said Jean-Marie Ariès.

RECOGNIZABLE CLIENT BENEFITS

- ! The competence and proactiveness of NETASQ’s TAC enabled quick integration
- ! Simple administration interfaces reduce operating costs and adapt to the constraints experienced in Imprimeries IPS’s business.
- ! The robustness of installed products guarantees the effective protection of the host platform.
- ! Logging of traffic and improvement in inter-site communications made easy with ASQ technology.

IMPRIMERIES IPS

- Subsidiary of the SPIR COMMUNICATION group
- 750 associates
- 15 national sites
- 4 areas of business (compilation of classified ads, production of advertising flyers, rotary press printing, website hosting)
- 13.5 million copies of free newspapers printed weekly
- More than 100 regional press publications
- Digital file exchange service

Configuration

- 14 F50 appliances on remote sites
- 2 F2000 appliances in high availability to secure the host platform
- 1 F200 appliance at the head office for Internet access

“What sets NETASQ firewalls apart is their unique intrusion prevention technology – ASQ.”

Jean-Marie Ariès
Network and Systems Manager

COMBINING A QUALITY SUPPORT CENTER WITH ONE OF THE BEST INTRUSION PREVENTION SYSTEMS ON THE MARKET

In 2001, Imprimeries IPS set up a new internet file transfer service with the aims of providing more availability, cutting down on transfer time and reducing telecommunications costs.

This does not depend on the heterogeneousness of the software used for transferring files that do not fully comply with the protocol. Non-compliance with protocols is easily detected by NETASQ’s ASQ technology and is quickly isolated and treated.

Presently, more than 300 clients use the service offered by Imprimeries IPS in full compliance with the standard, thereby limiting errors in transfers.



About NETASQ

NETASQ, the leading European manufacturer of professional internet security appliances was founded in Villeneuve D’Ascq (France) in 1998. The company designs and markets UTM (Unified Threat Management) solutions which combine application and network firewall functions, VPN and content filtering with a unique real-time intrusion prevention technology – ASQ (Active Security Qualification). NETASQ has full control of its proprietary ASQ technology.



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