



THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF GEOGRAPHY NOW MANAGES ITS OWN NETWORK SECURITY.

The principal missions of IGN or *Institut Géographique National* are to ensure the production, maintenance and distribution of geographical reference information in France. In addition to these activities, it trains engineers and technicians, carries out research in the geographical field, and keeps the institutional geographical documentation up-to-date.

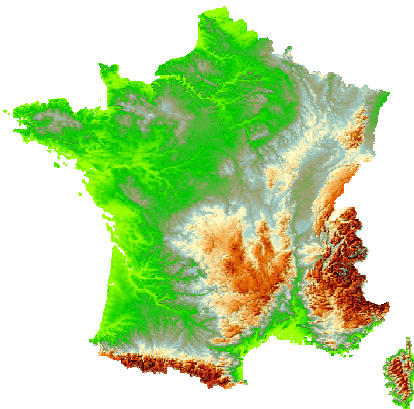


National Institute of Geography's headquarter in Saint-Mandé, near Paris

Interview with Luc Mathis and Olivier Gueguen
System and Network Engineers, IGN Telematic Department

A GROWING NEED TO ENSURE THAT DATA IS SECURE

The Telematic Department manages network infrastructure, telephony and IT at IGN. This includes IGN's network, mail servers, domain name servers, and of course, network security. There are also servers which diffuse geodesic data, and institutional web sites. *"More and more services are being deployed as our field is growing rapidly. Therefore, security requirements are more and more prevalent,"* stated Mathis. The IGN works with the general public, but also with government and private organizations, and with the military. Security measures are imperative at the IGN. *"A Security Team has been created and security policies are being put into place gradually as security requirements increase,"* added Gueguen.



The IGN's former internet access provider also provided managed firewall services. It became apparent that this arrangement was no longer adequate for IGN. As security requirements grew, the IGN needed to manage its own firewalls; that is, to fully control its own security.



Usually, graphic interfaces are limiting in what they allow. For example, you don't have the same possibilities as you do with a command line configuration. This is not the case with NETASQ's interface. The interface is user-friendly, but at the same time very powerful."

Luc Mathis

"We needed to configure and manage our own rules and be able to verify and modify these rules at will," stated Mathis. About fifteen months ago, the IGN signed a new internet access agreement with Orange Business/France Telecom and NETASQ appliances were part of the overall offering. IGN would now be able to fully manage its own network security.

COMPLEX SECURITY CONFIGURATIONS ARE NOW SET UP AND MODIFIED QUICKLY AND EASILY

"We particularly value NETASQ's object-oriented approach. The rules are not static -- they are object-oriented and thus very dynamic," said Mathis. *"Usually, graphic interfaces are limiting in what they allow. For example, you don't have the same possibilities as you do with a command line configuration. This is not the case with NETASQ's interface. The interface is user-friendly, but at the same time very powerful."*

"The tool enables us to set up rules very quickly, and making a modification to a group of services does not necessarily impact the rule that the group of services is using. For example, you can have in place a certain number of rules that authorize incoming and outgoing communications on the network for a group of services. You are not obligated to define 'one rule per service,' as you can define a rule for a group of services, and, you can modify, – that is to say add or take away services from a group, and do this very easily and independently of the rule. The rule takes the change into account without manually having to break up or add a rule. This feature is very flexible and very powerful. This enables us to set up complex configurations very quickly and easily," explained Mathis.

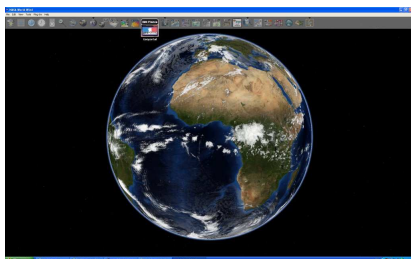
FLEXIBLE PARTITIONING AND CONSTANT STABILITY ARE ACHIEVED

The IGN made the choice to have several DMZs, rather than one large zone, using NETASQ F500 appliances. This choice makes possible flexibility in terms of management. The IGN partitions off certain data flows and can therefore easily guarantee higher security for the more sensitive data servers. The task of protecting specific data is made easier by splitting up all servers into three DMZs.

“ Once the appliance is up and running, and if there are no configuration errors, it just keeps on running. **We have never had to reboot them.”**

Olivier Gueguen

NETASQ’s appliances are extremely stable. *“Once the appliance is up and running, and if there are no configuration errors, it just keeps on running. We have never had to reboot them,”* stated Gueguen. In fact, the IGN has been using NETASQ’s appliances for about 15 months and they have never had to reboot them. *“The equipment we had formerly, which was provided by a well known international vendor, needed to be rebooted regularly as it was often overloaded.”*



About NETASQ

NETASQ was established in 1998 and is one of the leading European network security vendors with more than 40,000 appliances sold to date. It develops innovative solutions aimed at protecting its customers’ data, communications and infrastructure against computing threats that keep increasing in number while growing more dangerous and more diverse.

NETASQ is best known for designing and building the NETASQ UTM, a range of “all-in-one” Network Security appliances that combine multiple security features in one device. Features include intrusion prevention, firewall, antivirus, antispam, content filtering, VPN access and NETASQ SEISMO for improved real-time vulnerability detection and risk management. The foundation of the software architecture on these appliances is the unique, multi-patented ASQ (Active Security Qualification) operating system that fully addresses the requirement for “zero day” proactive security.

To help companies fight the spam epidemic while ensuring that no valid e-mail is ever lost in the process, NETASQ MFILTRO mail security appliances combine antispam filtering features with antivirus and antispam modules, and provide a quarantine option so that every employee controls what happens with mail identified as spam.

NETASQ relies on a network of over 300 partners who market solutions in over 30 countries throughout Europe, the Middle East, Northern Africa and Asia.

VISIBLES CLIENT BENEFITS

- System stability
- Powerful, object-oriented, graphical interface
- Flexible rule setting
- Complex configurations set up and modified quickly and easily
- Economically attractive solution

NETASQ APPLIANCES

- F500
- F200



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In addition to these activities, it trains engineers and technicians, carries out research in the geographical field and keeps the institutional geographical documentation up to date.

From aerial photography to printing, from paper cards to CD ROMs and digital data bases as well as research and training, the IGN is master of all the know-how that enables it to fulfil its mission entirely and be ready to listen to users, businesses, local authorities and individuals.

To design tools that will help improve the management of the territory, the protection of our environment and the preparation of the geographical data of tomorrow, such are the major subjects on which the IGN is committed to encourage public debate and the expression of citizenship for the years to come ..."

> <http://www.ign.fr/>