MAJOR HOSPITAL COMPLEX PROTECTS MEDICAL DATA AND PROVIDES FOR SECURE EXCHANGE OF CRITICAL INFORMATION

The IT department at CHU[1] of Poitiers - the University Hospital at Poitiers plays a strategic role in providing services dedicated to health care. Traditionally reporting to the Finance Department of the hospital, as of September 2007, the IT Department now reports directly to the Managing Director. It manages a budget of 1.3MEuros. This new autonomy was created to enable IT to recommend leading-edge technologies for current and future projects. These projects include mobile information systems, storage optimization, medical archiving and the implementation of CTI/Telephony convergence within the hospital complex environment.

With Mr Eric POTAUX
Deputy Director, IT

THE IMPORTANCE OF SECURITY IS HIGHLIGHTED AT A STATE-OF-THE-ART MEDICAL CENTER

Data security is required on many levels within the CHU of Poitiers. The hospital holds a strategic position in the region because of its size and the expertise of its staff. The staff of medical, non-medical, research and students numbers nearly 6,400. For example, the hospital offers services such as Telemedicine to colleagues working within smaller health care establishments. The exchange between the complex and external colleagues includes data such as patients' images or reports for expert consultation by the hospital. All this data is protected by encryption. The hospital also enables suppliers to perform maintenance and servicing remotely and economically. Each supplier has its own secure user-friendly access to its specific equipment. Interventions are tracked to ensure the right companies have connected by means of the correct authentication. Finally, protecting patients' medical files within the hospital is of utmost importance. Here, unique signature recognition is used along with profiling, and containment of queries.

NETASQ's solution has been in place at the CHU of Poitiers since 2006. NETASQ's appliance acts as frontal protection for filtering and analysis

AN IMMEDIATE RETURN ON INVESTMENT THROUGH BANDWIDTH OPTIMIZATION

"First of all, NETASQ enabled us to trace and secure internal communication streams. All users at the hospital pass through NETASQ. All queries made to the information system and to the internet are logged. Prior to the implementation of NETASQ, we did not have the tools that enabled us to carry out Level 7 (application level) monitoring," stated Potaux.

The CHU of Poitiers possessed what should have been adequate bandwidth, but the internal users' extra-professional downloads and use of the internet caused bottlenecks in the network.

> *"We have been able to confine users to professional utilization of network resources with access control and filtering. This resulted in a huge cost savings as we found ourselves in a position to renegotiate our contract with our provider. This negotiation enabled us to save 50,000Euros/ year. The return on investment was immediate."*
>
> ***Eric Potaux***

1: Centre Hospitalier Universitaire

A salient benefit is that undesirable content can no longer be downloaded. In addition, bandwidth can now be used for professional purposes such as videoconferencing. Also, certain web sites are barred if they are not in compliance with the hospital's ethical charter.

The hospital expects to realize further savings as the NETASQ appliance is currently used at only 20% of its capacity. *"We purposely chose a model that would grow with our requirements. More and more components such as our server farm and our strong authentication server will be connected to NETASQ. We have plans to progressively open different operational DMZ within the hospital. NETASQ enables us to increase the load easily and intuitively without any programming required,"* added Potaux.

NETASQ'S APPLIANCES ARE APPROVED BY TRUSTED AUTHORITIES

The hospital began research to find the right appliance in 2005. Mr. Potaux, who holds a military function in addition to his position at the hospital, studied the recommendations of the DCSSI[2]. (The DCSSI is an agency of the National Defense.)

During his research, Mr. Potaux also looked at the data published by the CERTA[3]. CERTA is a government expertise center dedicated to countering computer attacks and publishes vulnerability reports and alerts. As a result, it can be seen how different vendors are positioned, and which ones communicate openly.

> *"NETASQ's appliances are recommended by the DCSSI. Since NETASQ passed the DCSSI's 'crash tests', I was satisfied that I had come to the same conclusions as my military comrades"*
>
> **Eric POTAUX**

"In terms of security, if a company communicates, it is 'transparent'. All the vendors can say they are the best, but there are few who have the courage to publicly flag up vulnerabilities and offer ways to correct them. For me, this transparency is a gage of credibility." stated Potaux.

VISIBLE PARTNER AND CLIENT BENEFITS

- Immediate return on investment,
- Level 7 filtering capability,
- High level of performance,
- High ranking references,
- Easy and intuitive interface to handle load upsurges.

CONFIGURATION :

- 37 production servers housed in a clean room
- 2,790 workstations throughout the complex
- 1,750 printers of which 80 are connected to the network
- All within a 24x7 working environment

APPLIANCE :

1xF2500

2.Direction Centrale de la Sécurité de Systèmes d'Information
3.Centre d'Expertise Gouvernemental de Réponse et de Traitement des Attaques Informatiques

** Crédit photo :*
Communication CHU de Poitiers

About NETASQ

NETASQ was established in 1998 and is one of the leading European network security vendors with more than 35,000 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, antispyware, 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 antispyware 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.