



## THE UNIVERSITY OF POITIERS GREATLY REDUCES VULNERABILITY TO NETWORK INTRUSIONS

The University of Poitiers in France, an institution more than 550 years old, is today an academic community comprising over 25,000 students, with over 2,300 faculty members and staff. It covers all major fields through its 14 Educational and Research Units, Institutes and Schools. The University offers over 500 national diplomas and through its 46 renowned laboratories, it is increasingly active in high level research in many fields. On the campus there are 17 remote sites interconnected with a high speed network. Internet Access is provided through the RENATER<sup>1</sup> network with one fully redundant 2.5 Gbit/s link.



### With Emmanuel Laizé

IT Security Manager, University of Poitiers (France)

### URGENT SECURITY ISSUES HAD TO BE ADDRESSED

When Mr. Laizé took over the position of IT Security Manager at the University of Poitiers in 2003, an urgent need existed to implement new security policy and procedures.

In effect, the University was in the spotlight as it was receiving weekly emails from the CERTA citing problems such as virus infections originating from within the University itself. ("CERTA" is the Computer Emergency Response Team for the Administration. It is dedicated to the surveillance of government resources and it is closely linked to higher educational institutions in France, and to national defense through the DCSSI<sup>2</sup>.)

"With NETASQ's solution, we have completely redefined the rules and filtering mechanisms, enabling us to detect instantly any server with unusual or suspicious behavior," Laizé said during the interview. "Now we can immediately quarantine suspicious equipment, and deal with the problem

internally without passing it on to our external contacts. The results have been highly gratifying – instead of receiving one email per week from the CERTA notifying us of a problem, in 2006 we only received one email *for the entire year.*"

The University can now ward off all intrusion attempts by applying NETASQ's Intrusion Protection System.

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**Emmanuel Laizé**

"I'm not interested in simply detecting intrusion attacks," said Laizé, "I'm interested in preventing them and that is precisely what NETASQ's IPS does. Hundreds of intrusion attempts are thwarted daily. People try to steal research; they try to get into our systems to spread virus infections; they try to erase or deface our web site pages; they try to bring worms into

our systems; they even try to access a server and use our resources for storage, often of illicit content."

Thanks to NETASQ's tools, the University can now see what intruders are trying to do and it can quickly rectify any potential vulnerabilities.

### ACHIEVING TIMELY AND SELF-SUFFICIENT FIREWALL MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

As the University was reviewing its filtering rules, it made sense to revise

#### CONFIGURATION

- 8000 workstations and servers
- 17 remote sites
- 1 redundant 2.5 Gbit/s Internet Access link

#### FIREWALLS

- 2 x F2500s
- 3 x F2000s
- 2 x F800s
- 1 x F800 used as a VPN concentrator
- +3 x F2000 spares
- +2 x F800 spares

procedures at the same time to simplify management of the firewalls. So they adopted NETASQ's Global Administration tool, enabling them to implement a policy of "global" rules that apply to all 17 sites. Local rules can then be applied per site when required. "The Global Administration tool enables us to save an enormous amount of time in the management of our firewalls," Laizé said.

<sup>1</sup> Réseau National de télécommunications pour la Technologie, l'Enseignement et la Recherche.

<sup>2</sup> Direction Centrale de la Sécurité des Systèmes d'Information

The University of Poitiers also decided to review its maintenance agreement with NETASQ.

Previously, the University had an agreement for the replacement of equipment within 48 hours. However, Mr. Laizé now finds it more expedient to stock spare firewalls to replace defective material within the hour if needed. "In view of the pricing policy that NETASQ practices," he said, "we are able to offer ourselves serenity by keeping our own stock of spares. The cost is relatively low and this solution satisfies everyone as we are able to intervene quicker if the need ever arises."

It's just like my complementary health insurance, I'm never sick and perhaps I'll never need it, but I'm not against paying for it just in case. We may never even need the spares as we've never had any worries with the equipment, but we simply don't want to take any risks."

**WITH NETASQ, SOLUTIONS EVOLVE TO FIT CUSTOMER NEEDS**

"Every time we felt that we would be confronted with a new problem," said Laizé, "NETASQ had the answer. It's like the television commercial, 'You

dreamt it, NETASQ did it.' I know that if we were dealing with a big-name vendor, we would not benefit from the same partner relationship -- we would be treated as 'just another client,'" stated Laizé. The University feels NETASQ is behind them. NETASQ takes into consideration the new requirements that its customers share, and in turn, the University considers NETASQ as a privileged partner.

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In fact, The University of Poitiers has recommended

NETASQ solutions to its partners all throughout the region. Among NETASQ's clients in the region, we find the IUFM<sup>3</sup> of Poitou-Charentes, the Rectorat of Poitiers, the Engineering School ENSMA, the CNDP<sup>4</sup> located at the Futuroscope, and others.

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**Emmanuel Laizé**

**CLIENT BENEFITS**

- Ensuring a secure yet accessible network
- Technology that can be trusted to keep out threats
- Time saved with centralized firewall management tools
- Pricing that enables customer self-maintenance through stock and management of spares
- Solutions that evolve to fit market needs



<sup>3</sup> Institut Universitaire de Formation des Maitres

<sup>4</sup> Centre National de Documentation Pédagogique

**ABOUT NETASQ**

NETASQ was established in 1998 and is the leading European vendor of unified security solutions for businesses of all sizes: SMEs-SMIs, large enterprises and government bodies. The company designs and markets Unified Threat Management (UTM) appliances based on its own ASQ (Active Security Qualification), a unique real-time intrusion prevention technology, with network and application firewall features, IPSec and SSL VPN, content filtering, anti-virus, anti-spam, anti-spyware, and secure VoIP. Living up to its reputation as a technological innovator, NETASQ thus provides all the essential security functions, built into a single appliance. Its ASQ technology is embedded by default in all products, guaranteeing clients optimum protection through the combination of several innovative analyses. ASQ tangibly delivers on the promise of zero-day protection security.