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Frantisek Proks
GovNet Operations Manager
Czech Ministry of Informatics



CUSTOMER NAME

Czech Ministry of Informatics

INDUSTRY

Government/Public Administration

CHECK POINT PRODUCTS

- VPN-1® Power VSX™
- Provider-1®

CUSTOMER NEEDS MET

- Secured operations of internal network economically and effectively
- Provisioned hundreds of operating virtual systems
- Integrated compatibly with existing infrastructure

Check Point Provides Security for eGovernment in Czech Republic

ABOUT THE CZECH MINISTRY OF INFORMATICS

Information technology is an irreplaceable aid to modern public administration. The Czech Ministry of Informatics (CMI) tries to make sure that 25 percent of the government’s agenda is carried out electronically and that at least 50 percent of the population is computer literate. The ministry’s goal is to create a more competitive telecommunications environment and give support to e-business.

GovNet, the electronic gateway for public administration and government services in the Czech Republic, is being built in several phases. The aim of this portal is to help citizens find information and to communicate with public administration authorities.

THE CMI CHALLENGE

Each government department had its own isolated information and communications systems, and sharing of data was nonexistent. CMI was looking to ensure the secure connection of different sites that share or exchange certified data between individual government departments and the public administration and allow accessibility for authorized users—even outside the public administration.

Another challenge facing CMI was that the GovNet solution could not be dependent on technologies or products of individual companies and needed to enable compatibility between government departments with complete integration. GovNet needed to be easy-to-use, fast, and secure for all those accessing it.

Czech Telecom, the largest provider of communication services in the Czech Republic, was chosen to help provide guidance for this highly visible and demanding project. Czech Telecom provides more than 3.6 million fixed lines, 390,000 ISDN links, and over 700,000 Internet links to its customers.



“Given the expected numbers of users, this type of solution would be extremely complicated, not only because of the costs, physical location, and data and power input, but also in the administration of individual firewalls—it would be very complicated and expensive to achieve the overall high level of security required,” says Frantisek Proks, GovNet operations manager. “That is why we recommended Check Point Software Technologies. We knew they could meet all the needs of this organization.”

THE CHECK POINT SOLUTION

Czech Telecom selected Check Point VPN-1® Power VSX™ on a Crossbeam® X40TM Open Security Appliance as the key solution for the entire project. VPN-1 Power VSX provides the primary foundation for communications between individual public administration departments and for interconnections between their information systems.

“The Check Point solution plays a key role in the overall project for the secure and controlled separation of the VLANs of individual public administration departments, offering the possibility of mutual communications and access to a homogenous database containing verified data,” Proks says.

VPN-1 Power VSX is an intelligent security solution specifically designed for VLAN-enabled environments such as data centers, POPs, and large, segmented networks. By aggregating up to 250 comprehensive security policies on a single platform, VPN-1 Power VSX minimizes hardware investment.

In addition to delivering Check Point patented Stateful Inspection technology on gigabit hardware platforms, it may be extended to support centralized definition, enforcement, and monitoring of network- and application-level attack protection, remote access, and desktop security.

This eliminates the need to invest in and deploy multiple solutions to achieve end-to-end security. It's managed using SmartCenter™ solutions and Provider-1®, delivering a unified management architecture that service providers and enterprises can also use to manage all other Check Point gateways.

THE BENEFITS OF CHECK POINT SECURITY

A high level of security and reliability

VPN-1 Power VSX can operate on several different multi-gigabit platforms with a high level of security and robustness among its major advantages, particularly in relation to the needs for high availability and performance.

“The robustness of the VPN-1 Power VSX solution, supported by its stability and reliability, is so high that we have not encountered the slightest problem,” Proks says.

Easy management

“Our experience with the management has been extremely positive. The configuration and control are clear and these activities can be carried out routinely. Interoperability is also problem-free—we have not encountered any problems with other applications,” Proks says when asked about the security management of all the virtual systems using the Check Point Provider-1 product.

Low costs

It was the savings on communications costs and the inexpensive operation of the whole infrastructure that was one of the most important features of the project. According to CMI, when all the purchased software licences and hardware are fully used, average operating costs for a single secured VLAN will be extremely low. Using the VPN-1 Power VSX solution to aggregate up to 250 virtual systems on a single hardware platform—along with individual security solutions—has been a contributing factor to achieving this low cost.

THE FUTURE OF CMI

The main goal of the GovNet project is to create a virtual communications network for government and the public administration, which will ensure a high quality, secure, and financially advantageous means for the government to conduct electronic communications between individual offices and enable citizens to manage their affairs more effectively in electronic form.

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