



“Check Point has everything we need to extend our network, equip branch offices, and keep up with business demand.”

*Gianfranco Argiroffi
Head of TLC Systems Development
ANSA*



CUSTOMER NAME

Agenzia ANSA—
Agenzia Nazionale Stampa Associata—
Società Cooperativa

INDUSTRY

Entertainment/Media

CHECK POINT PRODUCTS

- VPN-1® Power™
- VPN-1 SecureClient™
- VPN-1 SecuRemote®
- Connectra™
- SSL Network Extender™

CUSTOMER NEEDS MET

- Secured remote access for travelling users, anywhere and any time

ANSA's Information is Secure Thanks to Check Point

ABOUT ANSA

The news agency ANSA is on site wherever and whenever news is made. The leading agency in Italy and one of the first in the world, ANSA provides complete coverage of Italian and foreign events, through 22 offices in Italy and 81 agencies in 74 countries. It supplies news and services to Italian and international media, public and private institutions, national and local governments, political groups, and labor unions. Recently, the agency branched out into video and audio content production for the Internet, satellite TV, and cellular phones.

Every day, thousands of public users access the ANSA Web site to read the latest news. “Our site enjoys great visibility and plays a crucial role in the field of online news and news in general,” says Gianfranco Argiroffi, head of telecommunications systems development at ANSA. To protect itself from intrusion attempts and attacks that increasingly target such popular portals, ANSA has relied for years on VPN-1® Power™, which guarantees secure connections for its remote offices and local bureaus to the home office.

THE ANSA CHALLENGE

In the news business, success is measured by who gets the facts first. ANSA journalists working under stressful conditions and extreme deadline pressure must be able to file their stories in a timely manner from anywhere that news is breaking. “We must guarantee that remote access is as secure and efficient as possible for our journalists. For us the efficiency, flexibility, and speed of accessing our network are among the biggest challenges that need to be addressed,” Argiroffi says.



THE CHECK POINT SOLUTION

ANSA ensures that its users can access the internal network and production systems, from anywhere at any time, through the Connectra™ Web security gateway. Traveling users already could securely utilize the network services through IPSec VPN tunnels using Check Point VPN-1 SecuRemote® and VPN-1 SecureClient™ software.

Connectra fills the one remaining gap, allowing users to transmit news stories from any location where there is Internet service. If users are away from the office or do not

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have their own laptops immediately at hand they can use public Internet hot spots or borrowed computers. Users can use simple Web browsers to access centralized information and be protected by the SSL encryption in the browsers and the advanced security functions that Connectra provides.

“Connectra is the ideal solution for ANSA users who need to have secure remote access to get into their file server, even in emergency situations when they have to use Internet hot spots or other public Web access points,” Argiroffi says.

Also, Connectra allows ANSA to extend more applications to journalists in the field. SSL Network Extender™, included as part of Connectra, enables remote users to access non-Web applications via an Internet connection as though they were on the internal company LAN. “This is a very useful service that guarantees full operability to our colleagues via the

Internet, no matter where they may be working in the world,” Argiroffi says.

BENEFITS OF CHECK POINT SECURITY

Argiroffi has a long history with Check Point. Today, with his experience at ANSA, he has a very clear opinion about the solutions Check Point offers. “In the mid-1990s, Check Point had the big advantage of being the only provider of patented-Stateful Inspection firewall technology,” Argiroffi says. Now Stateful Inspection is the industry standard.

“Check Point solutions have other strong points that are just as important: ease-of-use, flexibility in configuration and range, and breadth of coverage. Also, Check Point offers effective support, ease-of-installation, great performance, and low total cost of ownership. Finally, the constant security updates and strengthening of the technology let us sleep more easily.”

The ability to implement solutions on the Check Point SecurePlatform™ prehardened operating system, the high level of integration with other products, and Check Point high availability solutions have been important to ANSA.

“The advantages offered by Check Point are evident precisely when you cannot see them,” Argiroffi says. “When nothing is happening and everything is running smoothly, it means that Check Point solutions have allowed our IT system to reach the maximum possible level of reliability and protection.”

THE FUTURE OF ANSA

With the issue of secure, anywhere remote access resolved, ANSA will focus on scaling Connectra into a larger configuration to ensure higher performance and greater availability that is critical to a worldwide news organization.

Another objective is to expand the number of applications users can access. SSL Network Extender will make this possible.

Connectra allows the greatest possible level of security and flexibility through SSL connections to ensure that information always travels with the greatest possible protection.

CONTACT CHECK POINT

Worldwide Headquarters

5 Ha'Solelim Street, Tel Aviv 67897, Israel | Tel: 972-3-753-4555 | Fax: 972-3-575-9256 | Email: info@checkpoint.com

U.S. Headquarters

800 Bridge Parkway, Redwood City, CA 94065 | Tel: 800-429-4391; 650-628-2000 | Fax: 650-654-4233 | www.checkpoint.com

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