

*“In view of what was required as part of Luxembourg’s EU presidency, I do not think any solution other than Provider-1 and VPN-1 Power VSX could provide such consolidation, redundancy and virtualization.”*

Mohamed Ourdane  
Head of Servers and Security Service  
P&T Luxembourg



## CUSTOMER NAME

P&T Luxembourg

## INDUSTRY

Telecommunications

## CHECK POINT PRODUCTS

- VPN-1® Power VSX™
- Provider-1®

## CUSTOMER NEEDS MET

- Protected customer Web sites
- Handled security management without user input
- Improved redundancy and high availability
- Provided cohesive manageability

# Check Point for Absolute Security

## ABOUT P&T LUXEMBOURG

Founded in 1842, P&T Luxembourg is the leading provider of residential and professional services in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. With its 2,700 employees, the company operates postal, financial, and telecommunications services. In telecommunications, P&T Luxembourg runs both landline and mobile networks, providing a full range of voice and data services. With its lean and easily manageable size, P&T Luxembourg serves consumers as well as businesses including international banks, insurance companies and European institutions.

## THE P&T LUXEMBOURG CHALLENGE

The sheer profusion, speed, and very structure of Internet attacks—viruses, spamming, phishing—means that businesses and individuals find protection of their infrastructure, applications, and data an increasing concern. And it has to be done with tools and techniques that must come into existence prior to these attacks striking the IT infrastructure. So these days, preventive and remote security set the baseline for responsible security management of any computer network.

So whether or not they have skills in house, there is a growing trend among companies to call on the services of an external service provider when it comes to safeguarding their IT networks and infrastructure from Internet threats in today’s connected world. To meet this challenge, P&T uses a range of Check Point solutions to provide its customers with a quality service that they can depend on.

## THE CHECK POINT SOLUTION

Since 2004, P&T has been able to respond to this need by providing its SecureConnect security offering based on Check Point solutions. Its aim is to provide protection for customer networks by installing firewalls and ensuring the confidentiality of Internet connections.

The SecureConnect solution is mostly aimed at small- and medium-size enterprises (SMEs) and manufacturing companies. “P&T provides connectivity solutions to customers ranging from major accounts and SMEs to small office/home office users,” says Yves Jallon, SecureConnect product manager at P&T’s telecommunications division. “We provide solutions that scale up and down in sophistication and cost.”

These services include handling the security management of network and/or Internet access without the user or company having to worry about a thing. "SecureConnect is sized for noncritical or semicritical situations in SMEs or for the needs of telecommuters and remote offices," Jallon says. "It provides total security and availability for their data and communications, whether within the company, between sites, or with their own customers and partners."

"In many cases, SMEs do not have the resources they need in house to effectively manage their security," he says. "By taking charge of their firewalls, functions, and connections remotely and ensuring that they develop over time, P&T provides them with a vital service. For customers who do have their own IT department or network and security specialists, SecureConnect relieves them of these particular concerns."

To implement SecureConnect, a P&T team goes to a customer's site, installs the equipment including command boxes, and connects the system to the Internet and P&T's security portal.

### Modular solution

SecureConnect comes in three modules for the SME market: WebAccess, RemoteAccess, and NetworkAccess. WebAccess provides simple protection for workstations or local networks. An S-box firewall is installed between an SME's workstations or network and the Internet. It acts as both a firewall and an integrated part of an email antivirus management system. The S-box and automatic function upgrades are controlled remotely by P&T. RemoteAccess tacks on access security functions for telecommuters who work from home. Like a VPN tunnel session, RemoteAccess sessions are initiated by the remote site to the central site. Again, P&T handles configuration and management. Finally, NetworkAccess provides a VPN tunnel between sites, enabling any site to connect with any other, including subsidiaries, trading partners, and more.

### THE BENEFITS OF CHECK POINT SECURITY

Once the sites and users connected to an S-box exceed a certain number, P&T turns to VPN-1® Power VSX™, a virtualized Check Point security solution that can consolidate many physically separate security devices into far fewer pieces of hardware. "Once you reach a certain number of remote sites connecting to a central site, we switch to this type of system to guarantee sufficient bandwidth," says Mohamed Ourdane, Head of Servers and Security Service. "The customer's central site is connected via a permanent high-output connection to P&T's MPLS backbone. IPSec sessions end at a VPN-1 Power VSX, which acts as a VPN concentrator and firewall."

As a virtual solution, VPN-1 Power VSX has the advantage of being independent from the underlying platform. For example, it is possible to combine it with Crossbeam platforms that have great capacity and significant redundancy. "This creates a solution that is reliable and that can be virtualized," Ourdane says. "By linking VPN-1 Power VSX with Crossbeam, it becomes possible to host solutions, such as email monitoring and scanning tools and the scanning and security of content or IDS, that can work in consolidated fashion with a Check Point firewall."

### Demonstration of sturdiness and value

P&T's VPN-1 Power VSX-Crossbeam solution demonstrated its sturdiness and value on a project carried out on behalf of Luxembourg's European presidency in 2005. "We had to support a particularly stringent SLA, so we decided to implement a solution based on a virtualized, dedicated firewall with clusters and 100 Mbps Internet connections," Ourdane says. "A Crossbeam platform was installed on two remote POPs for redundancy and the necessary high level of availability for connections and operations. Fallback was ensured virtually instantaneously. For security, the synchronization and management links between sites were implemented out-of-band on dedicated links."

Manageability was also important to P&T because Check Point Provider-1® controls all these virtualized firewall clusters. "In view of what was required as part of Luxembourg's EU presidency, I do not think any solution other than Provider-1 and VPN-1 Power VSX could provide such consolidated control of systems, redundancy, and virtualization," Ourdane says.

### Check Point for a clear view of security

But why did P&T go for Check Point when the company had to select a security provider for its own requirements? "At the time, no other competitor had such a cohesive management system—that was the essential element," Ourdane says. "After all, a company does not necessarily have 10 IT gurus in house capable of monitoring and controlling everything. Or else the company's operators may not have in-depth knowledge—so you have to be able to base yourself on an efficient system that puts information together ad hoc."

"With Check Point solutions, management is more centralized than other security products, for example, in terms of managing all the virtual systems, delegating management, and sending logs to the monitor," he says. "The result is a real-time view of each system. GUI management is also more attractive, both in terms of managing encryption and the creation of objects."

P&T also appreciates Check Point for meticulously updating its solutions to cope with new threats and integrating new technologies. "Check Point has been around for a long time and has solid knowledge behind it," Ourdane says. "It also has a clear view of the future in terms of end-to-end security. It's a view that is practical and that it implements step by step."

### THE FUTURE OF P&T LUXEMBOURG

For remote-site connectivity, the trend is toward increasing links between sites, with more important sites, virtualization, clustering, and centralized control growing as priorities. This is one area of natural development for the carrier, which is increasing management and integration skills up to the level of customer LANs, taking it closer to having a managed, end-to-end security offering.

It will also be possible for P&T to provide new services, by adding SSL VPN for mobile users, bringing the concept of constant secure connectivity to GSM, UMTS and WiFi.

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