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*Connie Wiseman  
IT Technical Manager, RPS*



**CUSTOMER NAME**

RPS

**INDUSTRY**

Engineering and Consulting

**CHECK POINT PRODUCTS**

- Check Point Integrity™
- SecureClient™
- SSL Network Extender™
- VPN-1® Pro™ NGX

**CUSTOMER NEEDS MET**

- Secure, reliable remote access for a highly distributed enterprise
- Flexible remote access solutions for a variety of users
- Effective and easy-to-use security

**RPS connects field consultants with flexible Check Point endpoint solutions**

**ABOUT RPS**

With low corporate taxes and a flexible, well-educated workforce, Ireland is fertile ground for foreign investment. More than 1,000 overseas companies—roughly half of them U.S. enterprises—have facilities in Ireland and more keep coming, making Ireland the fastest-growing economy in Europe. RPS exists to support that growth by planning and building the plants and offices of these businesses, as well as the infrastructure that they require. RPS has established itself as Ireland’s leading multidisciplinary consultancy providing planning, engineering, transportation, and environmental services.

“We are a one-stop shop for American corporations coming into Ireland,” says Connie Wiseman, RPS IT technical manager. “We can supply any expertise required—from environmental impact studies all the way to construction.” The company has 900 employees based out of offices in Belfast, Cork, Dublin, Galway, Letterkenny, Limerick, and Waterford.

**THE RPS CHALLENGE**

RPS supports its various divisions with an information technology strategy that Wiseman characterizes as a “distributed centralized model.” Services such as email are centralized, with different services being located in different places that are connected by an MPLS network. For example, the company’s email system, Microsoft Exchange, is centrally hosted and managed in Dublin, while its enterprise-wide GBA Master Series infrastructure and asset management system is centralized in Galway. In addition, hundreds of RPS employees move around, working at times from RPS offices, home, hotels, airports, customer facilities, or, as Wiseman says, “a ditch in the countryside.” RPS needed to provide secure remote access that is also extremely user-friendly so that consultants can get their email, download standards from the intranet, and, perhaps most important, report their hourly billings and expenses from the field in a timely manner. “We had an https product for remote intranet access, but we didn’t want to give it to people because we were unsure about what their laptops might have on them and how safe they were. We felt wide open,” Wiseman says.

## THE CHECK POINT SOLUTION

To help solve RPS's remote access security concerns, Wiseman invited Integrity Solutions, a Check Point solutions partner, to review his company's security and provide training. Based in Dublin, this IT security company does everything from security audits to implementing and supporting security solutions. Its recommendations resulted in upgrading existing Check Point perimeter security gateways to the VPN-1® Pro™ NGX software platform and replacing an appliance with an open server running SecurePlatform™, Check Point's hardened operating system for security.

"Enhanced Application Intelligence™ is the single most important reason for the upgrade to VPN-1 Pro NGX," says Anthony Walsh of Integrity Solutions. "The NGX release gives RPS greater protection from layered attacks within application protocols. It also comes with built-in intrusion prevention through SmartDefense™."

SmartDefense allows RPS to configure defenses that not only protect it from known attacks but also actively recognize and block new types of attacks. "VPN-1 Pro now provides an even more secure foundation for the remote access solutions RPS needs," Walsh says.

For accountants, executives, and engineers, RPS is now providing Check Point Integrity™ SecureClient™ for remote access. These users move back and forth between the RPS internal network and untrusted networks. "They would go home and change their laptop configurations for separate dialup. Our biggest fear was that we could not be sure what vulnerabilities their laptops had or what viruses or spyware they might be carrying," Wiseman says. Integrity SecureClient solves the problem by installing a centrally managed personal firewall on the endpoint computers, preventing eavesdropping and piggybacking on the transmissions and enabling RPS to block network access to computers that do not comply with its security policies. Before endpoint computers are allowed access, Integrity SecureClient works with VPN-1 Pro to check that they are safe—that is they have all the required patches and antivirus updates and are only running approved software. "Integrity SecureClient provides a solution that is secure for us and, at the same time, transparent to the users," Wiseman says.

In some instances, RPS provides SSL Network Extender™ for remote access. For example, consultants working at client sites behind firewalls that do not allow connections out to the RPS network can go through the Internet using the SSL Network Extender Web browser plug-in, of which savvy users—like Wiseman and staff—take advantage. "We can trust these high-level users to know all about the state of security of the computers that they are using for access," he says.

## THE BENEFITS OF CHECK POINT SECURITY

In Ireland, where accountants play a strong role in running companies, Check Point security for remote access passes the most important test—it makes the accountants happy.

Everyone is able to transmit their financial data in a reliable and timely manner. While some RPS users need to connect at various times to submit their hours and expenses, RPS accountants need to be online all the time crunching numbers so they know if their data is not showing up as expected. Accountants were among the first to have Integrity SecureClient on their company-provided laptop computers. "Within the first couple of weeks, they were amazed by it, which is a good thing because they are the ones who approve the security expenditures," he says.

### Safety for financial data, quiet helpdesk

As RPS's financial data is transmitted all around Ireland, through tunnels over IP and over the MPLS network, Integrity SecureClient and VPN-1 Pro work together to protect it from compromise, exposure, and theft.

Also, Integrity SecureClient is easy to use for RPS users, and they trust it. "Users know that when they connect, they're not going to get a new and different problem each time," Wiseman says. "There's consistency and transparency for them. And because it's easy for them, it's easy for us because we don't get the support calls."

### Flexible endpoint security for different needs

RPS is a highly distributed organization, with many consultants working remotely under different conditions but who all need secure access to MS Exchange, knowledge databases, and time-and-expense reporting wherever they are. Check Point provides RPS a choice. Integrity SecureClient on RPS-provided laptops for users who take their work home or on the road or SSL Network Extender for consultants working on customer-supplied computers and for trusted super users like IT managers.

RPS also plans to add Integrity Clientless Security to protect access via the Web. "We have many consultants who go home to other countries, such as India or Pakistan. They don't want to carry their laptops, but they do need to check their email," Wiseman says. Integrity Clientless Security offers the perfect solution. These users can securely access MS Exchange and other applications from computers at home or Internet cafes. Integrity Clientless Security is a Web browser plug-in that quickly scans the state of security of the accessing endpoint and detects and disables unauthorized processes before allowing the user to log in.

## THE FUTURE OF RPS

RPS is ready from a firewall perspective with VPN-1 Pro NGX, according to Wiseman. VPN-1 Pro NGX provides application-layer coverage for the broadest number of protocols, including voice over IP videoconferencing.

With Check Point and Integrity Solutions, Wiseman feels well prepared for the future. "We're very happy with Integrity as a channel partner, and we are very, very happy with Check Point," Wiseman says. "Check Point has been great. We couldn't dream of moving to any other solutions provider."

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