

Success Story

Disability Insurance in Swiss Region of Solothurn

Insurance Coverage with Astaro Security Gateway

As part of Switzerland's disability insurance system, IV Solothurn is in charge of the government's rehabilitation program for disabled persons or people threatened by disability. The insurance agency's field of responsibility is to take care of medical, job-related, and academic benefits. This includes monetary and other compensations, which are guaranteed by law in order to assure minimum income. When it comes to online risks and internet threats, Astaro Security Gateway is poised to provide "insurance protection" against malicious intruders. Scanning the office's entire web and mail communication, the unified threat management appliance also provides medical staff with encrypted VPN access which is independent of location.

Marcel Meier, head of IT at IV Solothurn, is in charge of keeping computers virus-free,

allowing more than 80 employees to work productively. In the past, he used a Firebox III 1000 system to fulfill his needs, but when the agency's maintenance contract with Watchguard expired, he searched the market for alternatives. "My wish list included a couple of issues, such as improved log management, preferably dual virus scanning, and performance increases for our backend mail server through local spam quarantine systems," says Meier.



Reliable, Secure, and Simple

When choosing security technology that really fit, the overall idea was to find an "all-in-one" solution with spam, web and VPN components. By doing so, it became possible to cover all of the network's security requirements at IV Solothurn with one source. The product of choice was Astaro Security Gateway, including Mail and Web Security. "Reliable, secure, and simple: From

my experience with Astaro, these keywords summarize best the appliance's technical strengths," declares Marcel Meier. "All of the security components can be centrally managed, and on the basis of our maintenance contract, I am in the position to leverage technological advancements without having to purchase new product lines."



About Astaro

Astaro is a leader in delivering Internet security appliances. The Astaro Security Gateway simplifies Email, Web & Network Security and has won numerous industry awards as it protects over 30,000 networks in 60 countries. Astaro products are distributed by a worldwide partner network with more than 1,000 solution partners offering local support and services. Astaro Corporation is headquartered in Karlsruhe, Germany, and Burlington, USA.



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A Closer Look At Productivity

Throughout the planning and installation process, IFE Informatik Partner AG provided consulting services. Implementation turned out to be straightforward. René Emch, General Manager and founder of IFE, underlines in retrospect: "We were able to carry out the necessary implementation steps within one week. One day of consulting, two days of installation, and one day set aside for training." A completely new set of rules was generated, in order to capture as a whole all of the work-related and relevant processes, services, and functions. Due to functionalities like executive reporting, automatic backups for fast configuration rollbacks, and self-monitoring of various services and features, the newly deployed appliance facilitates efficient network administration.

Additionally, Astaro Security Gateway's anti-spam technology has improved productivity within the business network. "Particularly, our mail server's performance has increased," summarizes Marcel Meier. Integrating several

anti-spam technologies, the appliance is able to delete, mark or isolate suspicious email messages. At the same time, parallel deployment of two virus scanners allows for central filtering of dangerous web code. Astaro's filter engines also stop phishing attacks that put network integrity at a risk via incoming email messages and data attachments. Many of these attempts combine different attack mechanisms which can be best detected by all-in-one solutions already integrating diverse security technologies.

Non-classifiable messages are forwarded to separate quarantine folders allowing recipients to individually review the validity of emails. Employees receive daily spam reports about such SMTP and POP3 mails and are able to check each and every message. Additionally, they have the option of setting up individual white lists with valid addresses and manage personal email accounts on their own.

Energy Efficiency with Virtualization

In this network, Astaro Security Gateway is deployed both as a software appliance on separate server hardware and as a virtual appliance. Within the virtual environment, a second server is in use, and Astaro's security platform provides additional flexibility and advanced energy efficiency. Setup changes can be tested in virtual surroundings, and entire configurations can be exported and imported from physical and virtual machines. Additional benefits are optimized server utilization, further options in scalability, and virtual backups on the VMware ESX server.

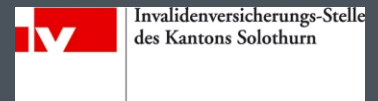
IV Solothurn's IT project is rounded off by a tap-proof VPN infrastructure for computers outside of the central network. "For medical examinations it is mandatory for doctors to safely exchange sensitive data," Marcel Meier explains. "Here, we had to deal with a multitude of different IT platforms, because information is sent en route, at home, and from medical practices....Some of our employees already exchange data via site-to-site VPN tunneling. In the near future, we want to add regional doctors and medical staff to this network."

Conclusion

A professional support system for policyholders is the top priority of the Swiss disability insurance agency in the Solothurn region. This means that productivity and reliability of IT networks and systems have to be ensured at all times, and legal compliance regulations for data protection and security have to be enforced diligently. Astaro

Security Gateway, a multi-award Unified Threat Management appliance, allows the disability insurance in Switzerland to meet all of these demands. An all-in-one solution including anti-spam, firewall, and VPN functionality, ASG stood the test of time due to maximum security, simple administration, and a competitive price-performance ratio.

IV Solothurn



IV Solothurn is a governmental office responsible for the nation's disability insurance program in Switzerland's Solothurn region. Employees working at the insurance agency are characterized by respect, esteem, and sympathy with disabled persons. The key objective is to deliver skillful and competent consulting services, designed to help disabled people's occupational and social rehabilitation in order to live independently. As an insurance agency, IV Solothurn is responsible for diligent and fast work, fulfilling the office's legal role.

IFE



IT consulting company "IFE Informatik Partner AG" has aligned its services with the demands of modern enterprises. The company's range of services covers the full array of IT communication infrastructures, beginning with consultancy and installation, up to support, operation, and maintenance services. Furthermore, the company's scale of services encompass the deployment and administration of modern technologies, plus openness and flexibility in regard to future needs and requirements.