

Dear

Please see below the March edition of Keyfort's monthly newsletter. This month's features are upon:

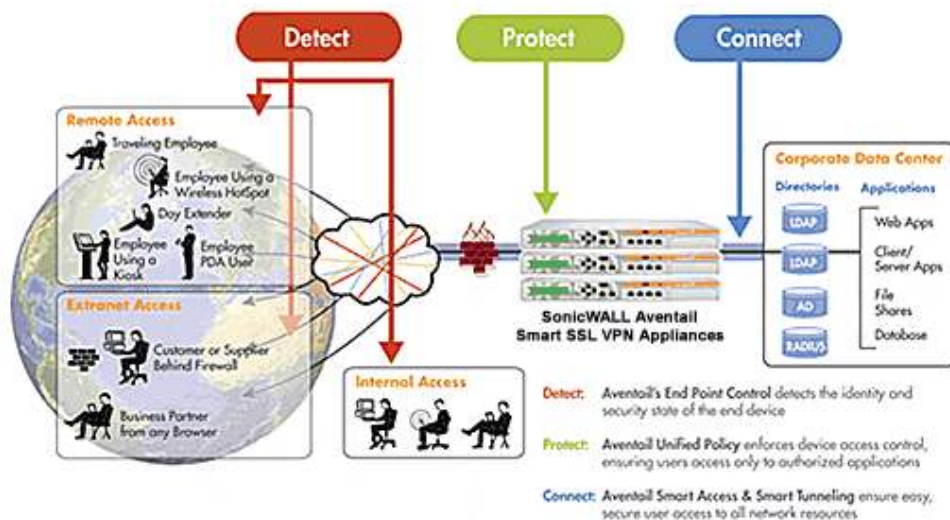
- 1.) Secure remote working with SSL-VPN's
- 2.) The effectiveness of email
- 3.) Efficient use of the Internet
- 4.) Monthly OPS report—SPAM

Kind regards,
Sarah

Increasingly, individuals (such as remote workers and partner organizations) working outside the office need to access information stored on the office network. To allow this access, SSL technology is often used. The technology is implemented in the form of an appliance located at the main office. It ensures that only authorized personnel may access the office network via the Internet and that all communication across the Internet is encrypted. [See http://www.keyfort.co.uk/remote_access.htm for further technical information.] For example, when accessing your bank account online, SSL technology is used.

There are two classes of SSL/VPN service; Business and Enterprise. With Business class, no assessment is made of the remote hardware being used, it simply provides a Protect and Connect service (see diagram). The remote user is authorized, against a directory, using account and password details, from which they are then permitted access to the office network resources in accordance with their access privileges. Basic reporting, including user names and access times are available for audit purposes. To add, delete or amend user access rights, the system administrator simply needs to amend their entry in the central directory. All that is required of the remote user is a PC with Internet access and a standard web browser. It should be noted that if anything more than standard web access to office network resources is required then the remote user will need to download a thin client onto their machine for which they will need system access rights at the first time of using.

The Enterprise class of SSL/VPN takes the remote access to the next level of service, by providing a Detect, Protect and Connect service. Not only can remote users be verified by their account login, but also by the ICT equipment they are using. Thus, if they are logging in from home with a company laptop with up to date LAN anti virus they can be given more extensive access rights than if they were using a shared hotel PC. This is done by detecting the status of the remote ICT equipment. Additionally, the Enterprise class service works with smart mobiles and PDAs as well as standard PCs.



Where strong authentication is required the remote user can be asked for a token number or card as well as their account and password. They can also be requested to update their LAN anti-virus before they are allowed onto the office network resources.



When connecting the remote user, the system administrator has the choice of web, proxy or thin client. Thus with the addition of proxy service, which is not available with Business class, the system administrator can allow a remote user greater access to network resources without the need of a thin client and its attendant PC system access requirements.

The Enterprise class service also offers greater granularity of access rights thus providing greater precision in network resource availability and security. Additionally, Enterprise class reporting offers a greater and more in depth service with regards to viewing those who have logged in, for how long and which resources they used.

In conclusion both the Business and Enterprise class SSL/VPN services securely provide remote access for staff and partner organizations. The Business class service is best used for remote staff using approved standard PCs and is cheaper. The Enterprise class service is more flexible, for both users and the range of devices that can access the service, and provides greater precision for access rights, security and reporting.

EFFECTIVE USE OF EMAIL

In the modern business world, the ability to quickly and effectively communicate with business partners and contacts is vital, as is protecting the email system you use. As reported by the BBC on Friday March 7th, we can spend up to half our working day removing unwanted mail from our inbox, a process that is costing businesses millions. Standard email security solutions provide anti-spam, anti-virus and anti-phishing protection, by scanning email titles and content to prevent suspicious emails from entering your inbox. The next step up is Email Management Systems, solutions that provide email policy management. Such a solution will scan attachments in addition to the email, strap lines and will allow the back-up of appropriate emails to occur, ensuring that a paper trail is not lost.



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