

Nebulas Security gives e.surv peace of mind – chartered surveyors benefit from security solution

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Nigel Adams,
National IT Manager, e.surv

» e.surv

e.surv is one of the leading firms of chartered surveyors in the UK and the largest distributor of mortgage valuations. It offers a range of predominantly residential survey and valuation services to both private sellers and buyers and to the institutional lending market.

e.surv employs over 250 professionally qualified surveyors operating from over 120 locations throughout the UK, has a turnover in excess of £50m. The network of offices is linked by a sophisticated computer network controlled from the National Operations Centre in Kettering.

The company's core business is the provision of valuations and related information for all of the leading banks, building societies, packagers and brokers in the market. In addition to the approximately 450,000 cases completed directly by the e.surv network each year, e.surv distributes over 180,000 jobs each year in its capacity as panel manager. There is a comprehensive range of valuation services for institutional and broker clients. The company offers a range of reports on traditional construction, non-traditional construction, property defects, specialist reports and valuations. Its institutional clients include, for example, Abbey, Royal Bank of Scotland, Cheshire Building Society and igroup (part of GE Capital).

» The Challenge

Following a successful management buy-out in 2004, e.surv had to migrate its internet access and email away from its existing systems as it established its own IT infrastructure. As a greenfields site, e.surv required security – specifically firewall protection – for its newly created network. The company conducted research into the plethora of available security solutions, but without extensive in-house security expertise, the job was daunting.

“We looked at a range of offerings, including some of the industry's biggest brand names. We needed a reputable brand with new, up-to-date products that could provide us with robust security and the scalability to grow with us,” explained Max Ashton, Computer Services Advisor, e.surv. *“Critically, we also needed someone to help us create a solution, implement it, and provide ongoing support.”*

» The Problem

e.surv required a robust and scalable solution which was both easy to manage and administer on a day-to-day basis whilst delivering maximum security features and the flexibility to cope with the upcoming business demands and changes to their Network topology.

The Nebulas Security team assessed these requirements and proposed Check Point Express VPN-1/Firewall-1 in conjunction with a Nokia Security appliance as a complete solution.

e.surv
chartered surveyors

» Customer needs met

- » Assistance with migrating Internet access and email away from parent company
- » Easy, centralised security management
- » A redundant, scalable and reliable solution
- » A trusted partner with the security knowledge and experience

» Deployed Solutions

- » Check Point Express FireWall-1 NG
- » Check Point Express VPN-1 NG
- » Check Point SmartCenter Management
- » Check Point SmartDefense
- » Nokia Security Appliances
- » Fortigate ASIC accelerated anti-virus firewalls



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Utilising the rich features within the Check Point / Nokia product set, Nebulas Security was able to offer a tailored security package that encompassed all of e.surv's requirements, including additional benefits such as full system redundancy, enhanced threat protection, blocking and preventing attacks at the gateway, ensuring maximum network uptime and peace of mind around the clock.

Nebulas Security has provided accredited training on the new solutions for e.surv IT staff to boost their security expertise, while supplying 24x7 Level support to ensure the integrity of the solution.

» The Benefits

e.surv is growing rapidly and has committed to invest more than £5 million in IT development over the next 18 months. An example of this investment is a new broadband network installed mid-2004 in around 200 locations across England and Northern Ireland.

The network introduces added flexibility for its mortgage valuers who are now able to access records and dictate and sign off reports electronically from any location, be it at home, in the car, the office or on site. This will enable turn around times to get even faster – hours as opposed to days. This places increased pressure on the security solution and raises the need for secure remote access, an area Nebulas Security will be looking at going forward.

» The Future

"We were very impressed with Nebulas Security – the set up, support and service we received in securing our business operations was fantastic." concluded Ashton. "We have peace of mind, which means we can confidently give our customers the same. This was achieved with minimal disruption to our day to day operations. Our ongoing support agreement with Nebulas Security means we can focus on our core business objectives knowing that our systems are secure."

» Nebulas Security

- » Nebulas Security is a leading provider of advanced IT security, mobility and compliance solutions.
- » Since its formation in 2001, the company has developed partnerships with customers to build their IT security infrastructures and protect their sensitive data. This is supported by the company's extensive implementation experience, close relationships with key security technology vendors and detailed product knowledge.
- » Nebulas Security's customers include many blue chip and FTSE 250 organisations operating in financial, media, retail, legal and healthcare sectors
- » Based in London, Nebulas Security is a division of the Nebulas Solutions Group, the security, acceleration and virtualisation specialist.
- » The Group's combined expertise helps organisations maximise the efficiency and security of their infrastructure, as well as reducing operating costs.
- » For further information, visit www.nebulassolutions.com

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