

Prosoft Uses AEP SmartGate to Ensure Network Security

AEP's VPN Solution Helps Prosoft Deliver Secure Information For Naval Warfare Center

The Naval Undersea Warfare Center (NUWC) Division at Newport, Rhode Island is one of the leading Naval laboratories. They are responsible for the full life cycle of submarine and undersea warfare systems, from R&D to systems development, to product acquisition and production support.

Professional Software Engineering, Inc. (PROSOFT) is the support provider for the Newport network operations center and the base's network connectivity requirements, as well as the Internet connectivity for the division's Norfolk, West Palm Beach and Washington state satellite bases, the Naval War College, and Electric Boat division.

The Challenge

PROSOFT must ensure that secure network access to critical information is available to all who need it. This includes appropriate access for employees on base, for off-site contractors, satellite base personnel and, on occasion, traveling base employees. These communities need access to sensitive project information and contract budget and human resources data. Most importantly, specific users should be permitted to access only specific databases or applications.

Initially, PROSOFT used only Microsoft PPTP and dial-up remote access for the on-base employee access. As the demands of the extranet community increased, they determined they would use a VPN (Virtual Private Network) to cost-effectively expand secure connectivity capabilities.

The Solution

AEP SmartGate® was recommended to PROSOFT at a firewall vendors training class as being a highly compatible VPN solution. PROSOFT subsequently downloaded a demo for evaluation and then purchased the server software.

PROSOFT chose AEP SmartGate technology based on the power and flexibility of its access controls. AEP Networks application level security allows the naval laboratory to meet its stringent security demands for FIPS token authentication, while enabling precise extranet access for specific users to specific applications or databases. AEP's support of a broad range of clients was important to the selection as well. With AEP SmartPass® client support for MAC, Linux, Solaris and Windows, the PROSOFT team can meet the demands of a diverse extranet community that includes all of those platforms.

A quote box with a background image of a ship's wake in blue water. The text is in white and black. The quote is: ***"The AEP VPN technology has proven to be a very solid and stable solution. Most importantly, every time I contact AEP, I get good information and good response time. Good support is what it is all about."***

Scott Martin of PROSOFT, oversees Naval Laboratory's SmartGate VPN implementation

In addition, the patented AEP On-Line Registration (OLR) technology enables straightforward remote approval and secure deployment from the naval laboratory's public Web for off-site contractors and division employees working at a site that requires a validated cryptographic module.

The Result

AEP SmartGate VPN technology enabled PROSOFT to provide secure cost-effective information access via the Internet. The scalability of the technology has given PROSOFT the ability to grow VPN access as needed. The original implementation of thirty users has increased over time to more than one hundred, with plans for up to 500 additional users in the coming year.

About AEP Networks

AEP Networks offers a comprehensive Policy Networking solution that provides complete security starting at the endpoints and working throughout a network – from the edge to the core. AEP's integrated portfolio of security products includes network admission control enforcement points, identity-based application security gateways, SSL VPNs, CAPS approved high assurance IPsec-based VPN encryptors, and FIPS certified hardware security modules for key management. Our products address the most demanding security requirements of public-sector organizations and commercial enterprises internationally. The company has design and development offices in its headquarters in Somerset, New Jersey, USA and Hemel Hempstead, UK.

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