
RISS Chooses AEP SmartGate for Communications Security

AEP's VPN Solution Provides Federal RISS Program With Secure Information Sharing Environment

Established by the U.S. Congress and funded through a grant from the Department of Justice, the Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS) Program enhances the ability of law enforcement member agencies to identify, target and remove criminal conspirators. RISS is comprised of six regional intelligence centers serving local, state, and federal law enforcement and criminal justice agencies in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, U.S. territories, Canada, Australia, and England. The RISS Program supports investigation and prosecution efforts against narcotics trafficking, organized crime, criminal gangs, and violent crime that span multi-jurisdictional boundaries.

The Challenge

The major premise underlying the establishment of RISS is that law enforcement and criminal justice agencies in various regions of the country need to instantaneously communicate and coordinate the sharing of criminal intelligence information. Accordingly, the RISS centers had to implement technology designed to assist that cooperative relationship in a structured, efficient and responsible manner.

As RISS evolved, the centers implemented state-of-the-art hardware and database technologies, and also determined that there would need to be a means of affordable and secure data access. RISS wanted to leverage "Web technology" and the Internet to meet their objectives. They needed scalable security technology that would provide law enforcement officers secure, 24x7 access while ensuring specific access controls for authorized members, mutual authentication, and strong data encryption.

The Solution

The RISS Program chose AEP SmartGate® to help secure their Internet-based network. AEP SmartGate client/server technology met RISS stringent requirements for an easy to manage single vendor solution that could scale to meet future expansion needs.

Given the RISS environment, it was important that the AEP technology could work with a wide variety of authentication methods and devices. In addition, because it operates at both the network and application level, AEP SmartGate allows secure and easy traversal of multiple firewalls without network address translation (NAT) issues.

Most significantly, the AEP solution could provide strong security for RISS while supporting powerful distributed administration capabilities, fine-grained access controls, and automated online user registration for ease of deployment.


"AEP SmartGate technology enables secure information sharing with powerful distributed access controls to meet the needs of our growing RISS network."

***Angelo Fiumara Jr., Deputy Director
RISS Office of Information Technology***



The Result

In keeping with the mandate of Congress and the needs of the law enforcement community, the RISS network, and its databases, provides a highly secure information-sharing environment that is easily accessible via the Internet.. Authorized law enforcement personnel have immediate, secure remote access to information in RISS databases via AEP security technology.

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Responding to the tragic events of September 11th, RISS has been recognized for the role it can play in support of homeland security to facilitate rapid communication and information exchange among member agencies. Presently, services are provided to over 600,000 sworn criminal justice officers in more than 5,600 law enforcement and criminal justice agencies, and membership is expanding daily.

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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