

SMABTP INSURANCE

Expand Networks Implements WAFS Solutions and Consolidates All Servers



IN SUMMARY

SMABTP replaced local file servers in its branches that were not powerful enough and, because backup tapes remained on site, not providing adequate backup.

TECHNICAL OVERVIEW

Expand WAFS technology allows 40 SMABTP remote offices to have instant access to the central Lotus applications and central Microsoft File servers.

PROFILE

Insurance leader of the building and construction companies in France since 1859, SMABTP solves all insurance needs in this market segment, covering both employer's and employees insurance contracts. Headquartered in Paris, France, the group has about 80 branch offices in all major cities of France.

THE CHALLENGES

Before implementing Expand Networks WAFS solutions, SMABTP branch offices were equipped with local file servers, that were old and not powerful enough. Moreover, data was not entirely protected, as the backup tapes remained on site. In order to improve the file services of its branch offices, SMABTP looked into the WAFS manufacturers offering.

“ The project began at the end of 2004, when all the servers had become obsolete.. The question was should SMABTP replace them with new equipment for example NAS servers or a new serverless WAFS system? We selected Expand's WAFS technology above the other solutions and manufactures and as Expand demonstrated the benefits of IT centralization in reducing network complexities and IT costs to SMABTP as well as being very competitively priced.”

- Franck Alcaraz, SMABTP

THE SOLUTION

SMABTP chose Expand Network's WAFS solutions, as it was the only solution able to suppress all servers in their branches (print, DHCP etc).

Today, 40 remote branches have been equipped with Expand branch office appliances, plus 4 high end appliances at data center level in Orleans.

At the beginning of 2005, SMABTP began to identify all the WAFS manufacturers, which was not easy because WAFS technology was in its early stages.

WEB LINKS

- Learn about our solutions
www.expand.com/solutions.aspx
- Learn about our products
www.expand.com/products.aspx
- Learn about our WAN Monitoring Tool
www.expand.com/wan-tool.aspx

SMABTP organized different tests in 2005 : first of all, Cisco and Juniper Network's solutions were evaluated. Cisco generates a lot of configuration work and after Juniper Networks' solution had been tested for one month, the verdict was that access was not fast enough. The Expand Networks and Riverbed Technology's products were then evaluated at the beginning of 2006.

Expand Networks was selected for three main reasons:

- The solution included a local cache which enabled work to continue during network failures (WAN Out option), and provided great Lotus acceleration.
- The printer server was emulated by the Expand appliance
- The solution did not interrupt data flow or SMB sessions.

THE RESULTS

After two offices were tested with Expand's appliances, all the users were delighted by the quick response time.

SMABTP decided then to start the deployment which ended in December 2006. Now Expand WAFS technology allows 40 SMABTP remote offices to have instant access to the central Lotus applications and central Microsoft File servers. This allows centralized back up, security, and simplified administrative IT tasks, by avoiding multiple on site interventions on office servers by the IT team.

SMABTP chose Expand Network's, not only for its performance and for its superior WAFS features, but also because of Expand Networks support and response time. Forty branches have been installed with Expand appliances and it is planned to equip all the other French offices in the near future.

LEARN MORE

Some of the best-known names in financial services, manufacturing, retail, health care, as well as leading government agencies and the military, rely on Expand Networks for optimized network infrastructures and superior applications performance.

For more information on how Expand solutions can benefit your company, contact your local Expand representative today or visit us at www.expand.com.