

Highly Available Swiss Bank Accounts!



The continual introduction of technology and the development of the Internet has increased competition among banking organisations and has encouraged the formulation of new banking products and services to become accessible to both personal and business customers through electronic distribution otherwise known as e-banking.

To help banks and finance institutions to keep abreast of the latest IT technology, RTC AG (Real-Time Center), IT outsourcing and banking software specialists have developed IBIS, an applications platform which allows end users to manage and process various IT products and services depending on their individual requirements, without the need to invest in costly new technology and training.

It is not only the banking industry who has increased the challenges faced by their IT systems, Swiss central and local governmental administrations as well as larger

municipalities have also begun to make high and often very specific demands against the IT infrastructure.

RTC's products and services also help government bodies to overcome problems resulting from the geographical distribution of IT networks, the vast array of system requirements to carry out increasingly complex tasks and the general security of their IT systems.

Battling with Poor Reliability

The comprehensive security management of RTC is based on many years of experience and close cooperation with their customers. RTC's security policy is to offer their customers a two-tier firewall system: one firewall to protect the internal application level zone and a second firewall, which operates as an Internet perimeter gateway – for increased security – both firewalls coming from different vendors. The company had originally two

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firewalls from two leading manufacturers but found one firewall in particular to be troublesome technically.

“There were a lot of operational problems with one of the existing firewalls and the technical support from the vendor was very poor”, explains Maximillian Hoesle, Security Specialist at RTC. “To compound problems even more the product went end of life without any official notice from the manufacturer and without any clear migration path to an alternative product. We felt as if we had been left stranded!”

Before looking for another vendor RTC listed the requirements they would expect of the new firewall; software solution, reliable, highly available and easy to administer. They then began to evaluate a number of solutions to see which met their high standards.

Built-In Functionalities

RTC was already a satisfied user of StoneBeat load balancing and high availability software and as this was an integral part of the StoneGate firewall and VPN solution they were keen to put it to the test. “StoneBeat ran well and is still running well today. It was a logical decision, once StoneGate successfully passed our product testing, to replace one of our existing firewall solutions with the StoneGate solution,” says Hoesle.

“We have found a lot of our customers’ technical requirements are met by the functionalities, which StoneGate offers as standard and that other vendors would charge as extra. The total cost of ownership of our security system has been reduced by StoneGate, both by the number of features already included in the product as standard and by the number of new features which are on the road map to be included in future releases.”

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Maximillian Hoesle
Leiter Betrieb Security, RTC



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StoneGate comprises a reinforced firewall offering powerful network security with built-in high availability and load balancing for continuous firewall uptime, a virtual private network powered by multi-link technology for redundant, always-on Internet connections to multiple Internet Service Providers (ISP), a high availability function which enables customisable clustering for continuous load balancing of firewall, Internet connections, VPN, Web servers, and other information services and its own hardened Linux operating system.

Ease of Deployment

The first firewall replacement was carried out in 2002. The planning, rollout, configuration and testing of an enterprise cluster took about 4 to 5 working days per customer firewall.

"We found StoneGate very quick and simple to install, in fact much easier than both the other firewalls we have experienced," recounts Hoesle. "The remote update/upgrade functionality combined with the fall back feature has saved us a lot of time and

organisational overheads. With StoneGate, because the OS, firewall, load balancing and high availability are all integrated there is no patch management for the separate functions – this has been a huge benefit to the system management".

"We see StoneGate as a high quality firewall and VPN which is a very well designed, well implemented security solution and extremely stable giving us the high availability we required. Everything that we, and our customers were expecting from a 'real' security product has been fulfilled. If you are thinking about moving from a legacy firewall, I believe that StoneGate provides the best 'bullet proof' migration scenario from any other firewall product," concludes Hoesle.

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Leiter Betrieb Security, RTC**

About RTC

RTC has successfully offered software products and IT-outsourcing solutions for over 30 years. Its customers include banks, service providers, administrative departments, and governmental organizations.

Having developed IBIS, a standard solution for banks, as well as the desktop- and system-management product RENO Suite, RTC has gathered extensive knowledge in the migration and management of large bank applications and in operating mainframe systems and server environments. RTC provides know-how in designing and managing complex networks, up to the highest level of security solutions including firewalls. Filing- and backup-services, a fully equipped printing and shipping centre, and comprehensive education- and helpdesk services complete RTC's portfolio.

Facts & Figures

RTC's headquarter is located in Bern-Liebefeld with an additional branch office in Zurich. Two data centers are maintained by RTC in the Bern area. With approximately 400 employees RTC generated a total revenue of 135 Mio. CHF in the year 2002. RTC operates in accord with the internationally accepted security standard and was the first company in Switzerland to receive BS7799-2:2002 certification. The security standard was implemented into the existing ISO 9001:2000 certified management system.

Instill confidence. Install Stonesoft.

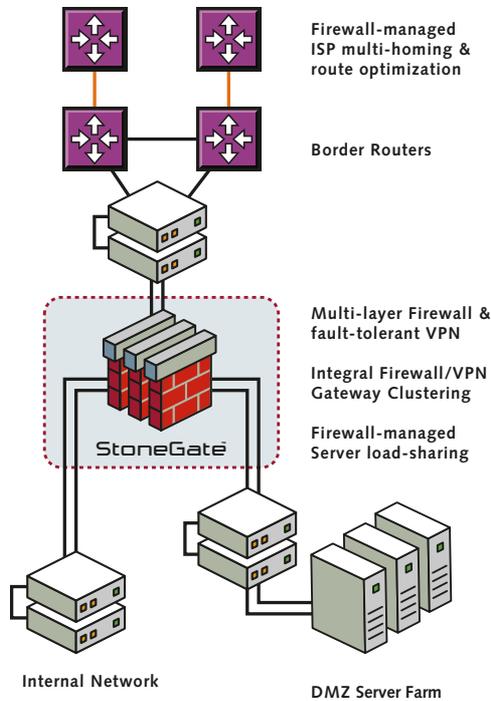


Stonesoft provides the solution for 7x24 network security and Internet connectivity with the StoneGate High Availability Firewall and VPN. Designed for today's distributed enterprises, StoneGate is a fully scalable, high security and high performance firewall and VPN solution for business critical applications.

'OUT-OF-THE-BOX' FEATURES

Setting new standards for integrated security and communications continuity, StoneGate comprises

- Outbound & inbound network traffic load balancing
- End-to-end route optimization for fastest connection
- Bandwidth aggregation
- Application-layer firewall security with Protocol Agents
- Linear VPN throughput scalability with clustering
- Centralized management and reporting
- Easy remote version upgradability
- Powerful management tools for hierarchical administration
- Integral security-optimized Linux operating system
- Rapid deployment with security appliances



Real World Business Security

STONESOFT

Stonesoft Corporation (HEX: SFT1V) is a worldwide company focused on enterprise-level network protection and business continuity assurance.

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