On-Air and Online

StoneGate Ensures Business Continuity for Flagship PBS Station

With over 40 years on the air and the largest membership of any PBS station, Thirteen/WNET New York has become an integral part of the American landscape. Watched by millions in the New York, New Jersey and Connecticut areas, "Thirteen" also produces over 700 hours of original television programming each year – including such acclaimed programs as American Masters, Great Performances and the hit children's series Cyberchase that are shown on PBS stations across the country. In all, Thirteen's productions reach nearly 200 million viewers annually.

This case study discusses the use of the StoneGate high availability firewall, including its unique ISP multi-homing capability, to ensure business continuity for Thirteen.

Thirteen/WNET New York

While Thirteen is a public television broadcaster by occupation, it has readily embraced the Internet as a communications medium. Activities such as email, file transfers to other PBS stations, and job-related Web searches by the station's 500-plus employees occur daily. In addition, Thirteen Online receives

thirteen
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1.2 million page views and has 250,000 unique users per month, making it the highest-trafficked public television web site in the United States.

Perimeter security is a requirement for any organization connected to the Internet, to ensure that network resources remain operational and sensitive data is protected. But along with security, Thirteen also requires high availability of Internet services.

Its previous leading-vendor firewall solution lacked what Thirteen considered to be a key function: the ability to manage multiple ISPs to deliver the fastest connection and failover if one provider goes down. Admittedly, Thirteen had also grown dissatisfied with the vendor's lack of responsiveness to technical issues, as well as software licensing that was costly and complex. "We were looking for a different firewall," says Ken Winston, Thirteen's Director of Network Technologies. "StoneGate rose quickly to the top of our search due to its ability to manage multiple ISP connections."

Thirteen put StoneGate into production in late 2001. StoneGate delivers the same advanced clustered firewall security as Thirteen's previous firewall, with StoneBeat® load-balancing technology built-in. It also includes the ISP multi-homing capability that Thirteen considers key for ensuring always-on connectivity to the Internet. This was all available at a lower upfront cost and lower TCO compared to the previous solution.
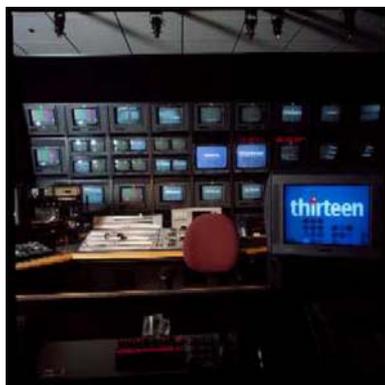
Need for Speed

Maintaining Internet connectivity is vital for Thirteen, since an outage would mean a loss of essential business activities. It also means that the highly trafficked Thirteen Online web site would be inaccessible. For these reasons, Thirteen relies on dual Internet service providers.

StoneGate's unique Multi-Link™ technology load balances between multiple ISPs and enables immediate, transparent failover in the event of a network outage. It also ensures that users have access to the fastest Internet connection – important in an environment where users have a need for speed.

"Our user community is quite demanding," says Dragos Stoica, Systems Engineer

"StoneGate rose quickly to the top of our search due to its ability to manage multiple ISP connections."

Ken Winston
Director of Network Technologies

at Thirteen. "With StoneGate, we saw an immediate and dramatic increase in Internet performance. It permits us to not worry about why an ISP for whatever technical reason is a little slower than it was yesterday, since StoneGate delivers the faster connection."

No Hiccups

As a company with a public profile, business continuity is important to Thirteen. It has found the StoneGate high availability firewall to deliver as promised. "With our previous solution there were always hiccups," says Thirteen's Winston. "We've found StoneGate to be very stable and the Stonesoft technical staff

to be responsive to our needs. It's a good working relationship."

In the near future, Thirteen anticipates contracting a third ISP for even greater fault tolerance and assured performance. A little further on the horizon is the ability to digitize original programming for sending to other PBS stations over the Internet. "We're not there yet – packaging TV content in MPEGs – but there's discussion," adds Winston. As Thirteen continues to set new standards in public service broadcasting, and as dependence on the Internet continues to grow, so will the value of online security and assured high availability of services.

About Thirteen/WNET

Thirteen/WNET New York is one of the key program providers for public television, bringing such acclaimed series as Nature, Great Performances, American Masters, Charlie Rose, Religion & Ethics NewsWeekly, Wide Angle, Stage on Screen, Secrets of the the Dead, and Cyberchase - as well as the work of Bill Moyers – to a audiences nationwide. As the flagship public broadcaster in the New York, New Jersey and Connecticut metro area, Thirteen reaches millions of viewers each week, airing the best of American public television along with its own local productions such as The Ethnic Heritage Specials, The Thirteen Walking Tours, New York Voices, and Reel New York. With educational and community outreach projects that extend the impact of its television productions, Thirteen takes television "out of the box." And as broadcast and digital media converge, Thirteen is blazing trails in the creation of Web sites, enhanced television, CD-ROMs, DVD-ROMs, educational software, and other cutting-edge media products. More information about Thirteen can be found at: www.thirteen.org.

STONESOFT EXPERIENCE

Stonesoft Corporation (HEX: SFT1V) is an innovative provider of integrated network security and business continuity. Its StoneGate™ Security Platform unifies firewall, VPN and IPS, blending network security and end-to-end availability into a unified and centrally managed system for distributed enterprises where security, uptime, and ease of use are essential. StoneGate incorporates the award-winning load-balancing technology of StoneBeat®.

Enterprises that require advanced network security and always-on business connectivity can choose StoneGate for low TCO, best price-to-performance ratio, and highest ROI of any high-end firewall, VPN and IPS solution.

Founded in 1990, Stonesoft Corporation has corporate headquarters in Helsinki, Finland; Americas regional headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia; and Asia Pacific regional headquarters in Singapore. For more information, go to www.stonesoft.com.

THE STONEGATE PLATFORM

As the first highly available, load balancing network security solution of its kind, StoneGate sets a new standard for FW, VPN and Intrusion solutions. StoneGate provides a unified security platform with active-active clustering, load balancing and bandwidth aggregation for multiple Internet links and ability to transparently fail-over VPNs, all with the security and connectivity of an integrated FW/VPN.

- **Multi-Link Technology™** – Seamless fail-over between multiple ISPs and FW clusters for always-on connections
- **Increased Performance** – Analyzes and utilizes fastest possible connection through integrated intelligent load balancing between ISPs and FWs.
- **Multi-Layer Inspection™** – Combines the best aspects of application proxy firewalls with traditional packet filtering and stateful inspection technologies
- **Reduce Costs** – Eliminate network complexities and costs associated with multiple vendor solutions and travel time
- **Unified, Central Management** – Robust remote management, along with simple remote update, alert center management, reporting, diagram editor and hierarchy policy updates. Also integrates FW and VPN with StoneGate's IDS Plus solution into a unified platform.

StoneGate is available either as a software–based solution that capitalizes on existing hardware investments, or as Stonesoft's own integrated appliance eliminating complexity and costs associated with multiple– vendor solutions. All of Stonesoft 's appliances include the standard enterprise level features with the only difference being the number of physical interfaces and performance level.

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Stonesoft Corporation (HEX: SFT1V)
is an innovative provider of integrated
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