

“The Juniper Networks firewall is solid as a rock.”

Mark Price
Commerce Bank
Information Security Consultant

Commerce Bank Cashes in on Security with Juniper Networks Network Security Solutions

Page 1 **Customer Profile**



Customer:

Commerce Bank, a regional bank

Industry:

Financial

Challenge:

Install a cost-effective, scalable, high-performance network security solution

Solution:

Juniper Networks NetScreen firewall, IPSec VPN and IDP security solutions

Benefits:

- Increased network security
- Support costs reduced by 1/3 by eliminating third-party vendors
- Simplified administration

For more than 135 years, Commerce Bank has been meeting the financial service needs of individuals and businesses throughout Missouri, Kansas and Illinois. With more than 5,000 employees and more than 330 banking locations, Commerce Bank provides a diversified line of financial services, including business and personal banking, wealth management and estate planning.

As Commerce Bank's networks grew in recent years, the IT group reached a point where performance and reliability limitations of its previous software-based firewall solution warranted evaluation of alternative solutions. In February 2002, Commerce Bank started looking for a new firewall and virtual private network (VPN) provider. "Our previous firewall solution worked fine in the beginning, but as we expanded and our needs grew, we quickly outgrew the solution. We began to see that the firewalls were going down more often because of overutilization," stated Mark Price, Information Security Consultant at Commerce Bank.

At this time, the company's management team also started emphasizing the need to reduce costs. Using a third-party network administration vendor having costs associated with hardware support, software support and recurring licensing fees, the IT team saw the chance to save a large amount of money by replacing its legacy firewall solution with an easy-to-use hardware-based, single-vendor network security solution.

The Solution

After a thorough research process led by Commerce Bank's firewall team, including review of multiple industry analyst reports, Commerce Bank decided to implement Juniper Networks NetScreen's robust security solution. In January 2003, Commerce Bank purchased Juniper Networks NetScreen-IDP 100 intrusion detection and prevention (IDP) systems, as well as Juniper Networks NetScreen-500 systems and Juniper Networks NetScreen-25 and NetScreen-5XP appliances—integrated firewall and VPN hardware-based, purpose-built network security devices.



Deployed in high-availability (HA) mode at the Kansas City headquarters are two NetScreen-500 systems, which provide up to 700 Mbps firewall performance and up to 250 Mbps of 3DES IPSec VPN throughput. The NetScreen-500 systems provide firewall protection and secure VPN connectivity for the bank's primary customer network, which facilitates online banking and financial transactional data, as well as the extranet that provides investment products.

A NetScreen-IDP 100 system, which provides up to 200 Mbps throughput and operates inline to accurately detect and drop malicious traffic in real time before it reaches its victim, will be deployed in the NetScreen-500 system at Commerce Bank's headquarters. With its high level of accuracy and ability to be deployed inline, customers can drop malicious packets or connections in real time to minimize the cost and impact of attacks.

The NetScreen-25 appliance, offering up to 100 Mbps of firewall throughput and up to 20 Mbps of 3DES IPSec VPN throughput, is also installed at the bank's corporate headquarters and provides firewall protection for an internal network testing environment. NetScreen-5XP appliances, offering up to 70 Mbps firewall and up to 20 Mbps of 3DES IPSec VPN throughput, are deployed at multiple third-party service provider locations and provide secure VPN tunneling for secure access to the bank's core network and business-to-business transactions.

The Benefits

In addition to effectively securing its critical financial resources, the Juniper Networks network security solution has given Commerce Bank many other benefits.

Since deploying the firewall and VPN solution, Commerce Bank has seen improved performance and reliability. "Juniper Networks has improved our network performance and reliability. We have gone 6,100 hours without a reboot to the solution. This is a dramatic difference from our previous solution. The Juniper Networks firewall is solid as a rock," commented Price.

By selecting the Juniper Networks security solutions, Commerce Bank has been able to bring support in house, thereby condensing the number of vendor services and contracts. The elimination of costly service provider contracts has allowed Commerce Bank to significantly reduce overall support costs.

Furthermore, Juniper Networks appliances are specifically designed for easy installation in a variety of environments. The intuitive and simple graphical user interface (GUI) and management features of the Juniper Networks devices allow Commerce Bank to easily administer and maintain the solution.



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