

CHALLENGE

- Prevent Unauthorized Access from Within Server Farms
- Reduce Dropped Connections
- Mitigate Threat of DDoS Attacks

SOLUTION

- ClearWidth Protector

BENEFITS

- Unbeatable Price Performance
- Easy Deployment and Integration with Existing Network Infrastructure
- Optimized Power-Efficiency and Compact Form Factor Reduces Cost of Ownership
- Remote Management

ABOUT CLEARWIDTH

ClearWidth enables organizations of all sizes to keep their networks running at peak efficiency by providing instant insight and control over traffic within the LAN. ClearWidth's affordable, high-speed appliances enable users to maximize the value of their networks without performance degradation or infrastructure changes.

Using the patented TruPerform technology, ClearWidth appliances can transparently inspect and manipulate packets at gigabit speeds, providing administrators with the ability to monitor and manage complex network environments without worrying about decreased network performance.

Protector's small footprint, low power consumption, flexible configuration, and simple and nonintrusive deployment add up to a solution that pays for itself quickly and provides a foundation for future change and growth.

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Online gaming has become big business. Consulting firm DFC Intelligence estimates that the worldwide online gaming market will grow from US\$4.5 billion in 2006 to more than US\$13 billion by 2012. Growth has been particularly rapid in Southeast Asia where one leading online gaming company, who elected to remain anonymous for concern of attracting unnecessary attention to an ever-increasing hacker community, already serves over 15 million subscribers. The Company specializes in *massively multiplayer online playing* (MMOPG) video games where a few, to more than 100, players face off against each other. To support tens of thousands of concurrent players, the Company has built a state-of-the-art data center in Singapore.

BUSINESS CHALLENGE

Customer experience in the online gaming business is a key success factor. Reliability of the network connection is a major part of that experience. A player who reaches the final level of a game, only to get disconnected due to a dropped connection, is an unsatisfied customer. Too many dropped connections and the reputation—and future success—of the gaming company will suffer. This Online Gaming Company's existing solution from a leading network security vendor was allowing an unacceptable number of dropped sessions.

Another concern, like any network, online gaming networks are subject to unauthorized access and *distributed denial of service* (DDoS) attacks that can overwhelm Web servers with massive numbers of service requests generated by hundreds of PCs under the control of hackers. DDoS attacks can slow or completely shut down online gaming sites if not mitigated. Even a minor performance loss can affect online games—while a total shutdown can have a catastrophic impact on the bottom line.

CLEARWIDTH SOLUTION

What the Online Gaming Company wanted was a reliable, easy-to-manage, cost-effective solution that would reduce or eliminate dropped connections, provide Gigabit throughput, increase access control between racks and deliver strong protection against DDoS attacks. The Online Gaming Company could re-install and expand its current solution from a leading network security vendor, but that product had already demonstrated its inability to eliminate dropped connections. A solution from another leading network security vendor consisted of a high-end firewall on a card that could be inserted into a network switch or router, but this alternative was well beyond the Gaming Company's budget.

The Company's IT Manager read an article about ClearWidth Protector, a compact, in-line appliance that protects critical resources from unauthorized access and increases security. This led to the decision to test and implement Protector in the new data center.

Servers within the data center are rack-mounted, with ten servers per-rack and each rack consisting of applications servers, database servers, billing servers and front-end Web servers. Two Protector appliances were installed in each rack, providing redundancy and up to 2Gbps throughput per rack. Protector appliances front-end the servers, preventing any incoming traffic identified as DDoS from reaching the servers and impacting performance.

BENEFITS

ClearWidth Protector provides exceptional price/performance that cannot be rivaled by any of the leading vendors. Supporting Gigabit throughput while maintaining line-quality and low-latency, Protector delivers high-end performance at a cost-effective price.

Protector's form factor, roughly one-fifth the size of similarly performing appliances, frees up limited rack space. Protector also uses less than 15 Watts of power, compared to hundreds of Watts for comparable devices, saving energy and reducing cooling costs. Small footprint and low-power requirements provide the Online Gaming Company an economical alternative, reducing *total cost of ownership* (TCO) by reducing rack space and electricity cost.