

Don't Let Your Business Outgrow Your Network

Written by: Andrew Froehlich
West Gate Networks
www.westgatenetworks.com

The Challenge:

Atlas Language Services Inc. was in the process of expanding its business to multiple locations across a large geographical area. The business needed a secure and reliable way to share various files, applications and databases between the sites. It also needed a reliable and efficient way for sales personnel to remotely access the Atlas LS network from anywhere in the world.

The Solution:

Implement a secure point-to-point and client-based VPN solution that allows for secure and reliable virtual network access across the Internet.

The explosive growth of Atlas Language Services Inc. has required the business to expand its offices to multiple geographical locations. Being able to have employees maintain a central location for database and document storage caused the organization to investigate various wide area network (WAN) technologies. "Growing to multiple locations has been a major factor in our rapid growth," says Kevin McQuire, president of Atlas Language Services Inc. "To keep the momentum going, we wanted to make sure that we invested in the best technologies to meet our needs today and into the future. It seemed like there were multiple approaches that we could have taken when it came to the design of the remote network. Fortunately, West Gate Networks was there to assist us in making the right decision".

Our Approach:

After gathering all the requirements of Atlas LS, the experts at West Gate Networks developed a network design specifically tailored to those needs. The decision was made to build IPsec point-to-point virtual private network tunnels through the Internet running between Cisco PIX firewalls. This allows Atlas LS to eliminate costly leased line circuits that were all but standard just a few years ago. The beauty of this design is that when Atlas Language Services expands again, it is relatively simple to build additional VPN tunnels back to the central office. Thus, the network is able to grow right along with the corporation.

The PIX firewalls also allow the Atlas Language to utilize the Cisco VPN client-based software so employees can remotely access the company network anywhere they can locate an Internet access. "Prior to implementing the client-based VPN, our employees used a pay-per-month service to remotely access corporate desktops and servers," says McQuire. "We've eliminated this monthly cost and have found that the new setup is faster and more reliable what we used before."

The Results:

Atlas Language Services is settling nicely into their multi-location environment. From an electronic data standpoint, the business functions as if it were on a single large network. All tasks are performed identically from the locations. In addition,

more functionality was implemented into the network including:

- Configuration of a robust hardware based Cisco firewall. This eliminated the problematic software based solution that was previously employed.
- Data backup procedure to remotely backup critical server data for safe keeping in case of a disaster.
- Port forwarding to internal static IP's for FTP and HTTP server hosting capabilities.

- Remote management of the network equipment for maintenance and performance monitoring.

The company's growth has continued, and as more opportunities unfold, McQuire is confident his network is ready to take the company to ever higher levels of performance.



West Gate Networks
909 W. Washington Blvd. Suite 405
Chicago, IL 60607
Ph: 312-492-6368
Email: info@westgatenetworks.com