

Helping a Leading Digital Security Enterprise Optimize their Network

With offices distributed across the globe, one digital security enterprise protects the world's top brands, including 89% of Fortune 500 companies. As a public key infrastructure (PKI) provider, certificate authority (CA), and trusted third party, the organization's networking capabilities are crucial to both internal and customer-facing operations. The company demands a high level of security and reliability, as identity authentication requires adequate connectivity between digital services in order to keep data protected.

The Challenge

The company's network infrastructure was beyond complex.

At each data center and branch location, the stack consisted of many devices from various vendors, all providing separate functions such as security, out-of-band access, and failover connectivity. These were in addition to essential routers, servers, switches, and other appliances. Managing the stack was cumbersome due to unique systems and interfaces. And because these devices each had their own limitations, time-consuming work-arounds became commonplace in the enterprise's network support efforts.

The company needed a streamlined solution for simple, remote out-of-band management, coupled with failover backup that would offer added peace of mind. To do so, the solution would have to:

- Replace as many components as possible (at least two systems)
- Offer redundancy to connected devices
- Assist with rapid response and Mean Time to Innocence (MTI)
- Provide reliable 4G cellular failover

With security as a top priority, the centerpiece for this implementation would be none other than Palo Alto Networks, whose cybersecurity offerings have been trusted worldwide since 2005.

The Solution

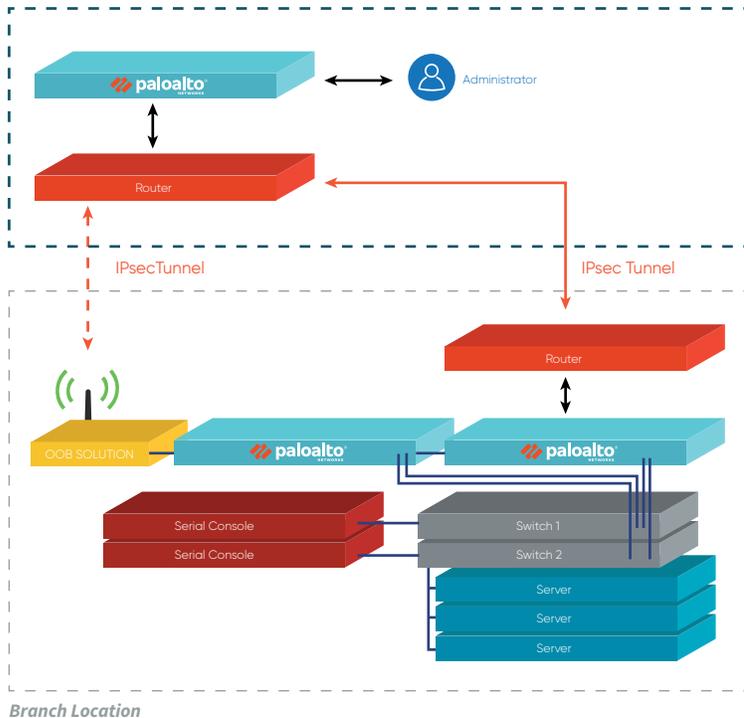
The enterprise deployed the Nodegrid Services Router (NSR) to meet their demands at both the data center and branch. The NSR significantly reduced their stack at each location, while also providing out-of-band access redundancy.

From a security standpoint, it was all possible thanks to Palo Alto's VM-300 virtualized next-gen firewall (NGFW), which was deployed directly on the NSR to replace several physical firewall devices. The VM-300's robust features, such as its threat-detecting IPS engine, dynamic routing capabilities, and support for redundancy, provided the critical security and availability for the solution.

In addition, the security enterprise uses a range of Palo Alto offerings for complete network protection. The NSR with VM-300 fit into the overall security plan, as it accommodated safe routing to every termination point. All traffic coming through the NSR, including VPN connections, benefitted from Palo Alto's proven defenses, from virtualized threat prevention to versatile, multi-gig-throughput firewalls.

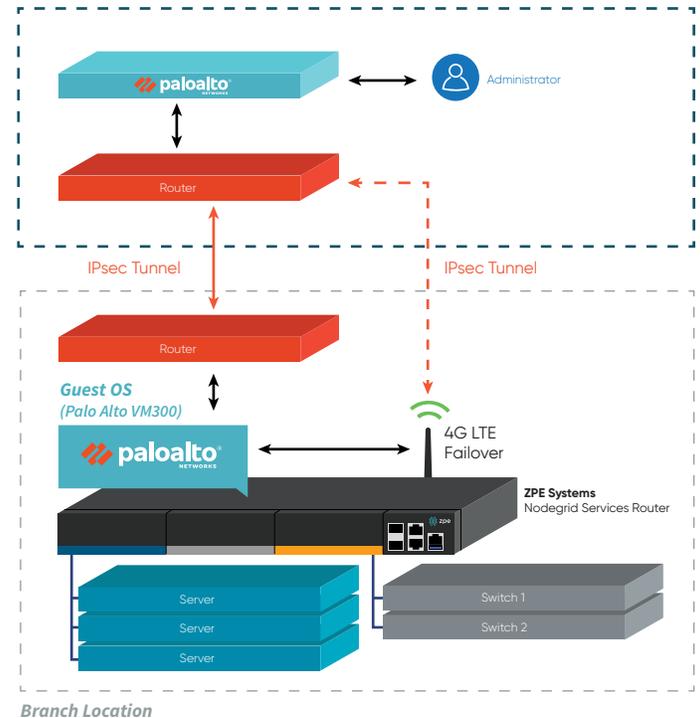
The NSR became the primary out-of-band solution to provide in-depth remote management, and also served as an ISP for additional failover backup.

Before



After

(With ZPE Systems Nodegrid Services Router)



The Results

In the data center, the combined NSR and VM-300 solution cut the company's stack by consolidating the capabilities of several physical devices into one, including:

- 2 x firewall appliances
- 1 x out-of-band access appliance
- 1 x cellular failover appliance

In each branch location, they replaced two physical firewall devices thanks to the combined solution.

With the ZPE Cloud, all of these data center and branch functions could be controlled from anywhere using a single, unified interface.

The Benefits

Aside from having a significantly reduced footprint, the enterprise benefitted from simplified infrastructure management and more streamlined network control. Implementing Nodegrid's consolidated and powerful NSR meant:

- Fewer devices, more management capabilities
- More uptime with additional failover backup
- Remote access for rapid resolution and improved MTI
- Centralized configuration, fewer points of failure
- Complete customization with regards to automation

Because Nodegrid devices are modular and can directly host third-party applications, the solution also provides flexibility and peace of mind going forward. As future business needs call for change, the company can adapt accordingly by adding modules and deploying virtualized functions — without increasing the physical size of their stack.

The result is an all-in-one solution offering more visibility and control down to the branch level, complete with the world-class security only Palo Alto Networks can provide.

Join our list of satisfied customers

Simply call or visit our website to schedule your Nodegrid demo today.

