

The Organization

AltaOne Federal Credit Union
701 South China Lake Blvd
Ridgecrest, CA 93555
800-433-9727
www.altaone.com

The Challenge

Ensure UTM firewall redundancy
without sacrificing performance

The SonicWALL Solution

- SonicWALL E-Class Network Security Appliance (NSA) E5500
- SonicWALL TZ 190
- SonicWALL Email Security
- SonicWALL SSL-VPN 2000
- SonicWALL Content Filtering Service (CFS)

The Results

- SonicWALL Unified Threat Management (UTM)
- High availability (HA) redundant failover
- Fully-leveraged DS3 throughput
- NCUA regulatory compliance
- Increased productivity

For over 60 years, AltaOne® Federal Credit Union (AltaOne) has offered safe and sound financial services to its members. Today, with assets over \$500 million, AltaOne provides a full range of services to over 47,000 members who live, work, worship, volunteer, or attend school in the California counties of Kern, Mono, Inyo and Northern San Bernardino.

Previously, AltaOne had deployed Raptor firewalls, but experienced difficulty obtaining adequate support from that vendor. As a result, AltaOne's IT staff found that additions, moves, or changes to security policy were prohibitively difficult and time consuming. In 2004, AltaOne began migrating away from Raptor with the deployment of its first SonicWALL® PRO Series network security appliance. Since then, AltaOne has extended their network security infrastructure to include SonicWALL TZ 190, Email Security, and SSL-VPN 2000 appliances.

The challenge: ensure gateway firewall redundancy without sacrificing performance

AltaOne maintains two primary gateway firewalls, one for securing internal traffic generated by the credit union staff, and a second for securing external-facing traffic generated by credit union members. Initially, AltaOne had not configured these network security appliances for redundant failover.

"We were looking at a single point-of-failure," said Jeff Arnts, IT Development Manager at AltaOne. "We needed a more strategic approach to how we configured our network."

Arnts forecasted the solution deployment to coincide with the installation of a new DS3 Internet connection. To assist in determining and deploying a best-fit solution, Arnts turned to managed service provider Western NRG, Inc.

"We're very happy with the level of support we get from Western NRG," said Arnts. "The quality of their work is the best, bar none."

Upon consulting with Western NRG, Arnts selected a SonicWALL E-Class NSA E5500 solution.

The solution: SonicWALL E-Class NSA E5500

"The NSA E5500 platform not only delivers high availability," said Timothy A. Martinez, President of Western NRG, "but also the high performance to fully leverage the throughput of the DS3."

The NSA E5500 is a high-performance, multi-service network security platform combining the patented SonicWALL Reassembly-free Deep Packet Inspection™ engine with an 8-core parallel processing architecture.

Arnts dedicated one pair of high-availability E5500 appliances to securing internal traffic, and another pair to external traffic. The solution leverages full SonicWALL Unified Threat Management (UTM) services, as well as SonicWALL Content Filtering Service (CFS). SonicWALL CFS dynamically blocks inappropriate Web content to reduce organizational liability and increases productivity.

AltaOne Federal Credit Union Case Study

"SonicWALL just works, without a lot of extra effort to keep it running. SonicWALL is absolutely user-friendly, easy to manage, and gives us the protection we need in an affordable solution."

—Jeff Arnts
IT Development Manager

SonicWALL Benefits

- SonicWALL Unified Threat Management (UTM)
- SonicWALL Reassembly-free Deep Packet Inspection™ engine
- Multi-core parallel processing architecture
- Best-in-class spam filtering



The result: high availability and high performance UTM security

Designed to lower costs and complexity, the NSA E5500 provides AltaOne with exceptional protection and performance and an array of enterprise networking features.

"SonicWALL just works, without a lot of extra effort to keep it running," said Arnts, whose background is in Cisco® PIX. "SonicWALL is absolutely user-friendly, easy to manage, and gives us the protection we need in an affordable solution."

SonicWALL solutions have played a significant role in keeping AltaOne in compliance with regulations mandated by the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA).

"With SonicWALL, compliance has basically been taken care of," said Arnts. "The NCUA auditors have never cited any vulnerability."

Arnts is also impressed with his SonicWALL Email Security solution. Arnts had previously used a Symantec® product, which had failed to block up to 100 spam messages per day from staff inboxes. With 220 employees each taking up to 20 minutes a day to clear junk mail from their inboxes, AltaOne had been facing a significant productivity drain.

"SonicWALL Email Security eliminates spam from inboxes and lets our staff be more productive. From a business perspective, it's been one of the best returns on investment we've ever seen," said Arnts.

SonicWALL Email Security (SES) protects inbound and outbound e-mail with over 98% effectiveness. SES self-updates every five minutes with current spam protection based on the SonicWALL daily evaluation of millions of business e-mails worldwide, while taking less than 10 minutes a week to manage.

AltaOne also currently has approximately 25 users authorized for secure remote access to network resources using the SonicWALL SSL-VPN 2000.

"It's been very valuable to the business. I use it all the time, and our executives and board members rely upon it," said Arnts.

The future: comprehensive, integrated security

With AltaOne's extensive deployment of SonicWALL solutions, Arnts is looking into the benefits of the SonicWALL Global Management System (GMS). SonicWALL GMS easily enables organizations to centrally manage, deploy, configure, monitor and report upon multiple SonicWALL appliances and security policy configurations.

"You could create an entire cross-the-board security strategy built on SonicWALL solutions," said Arnts, "and the cost-benefit ratio is clearly the best."

SonicWALL, Inc.

1143 Borregas Avenue
Sunnyvale CA 94089-1306

T +1 408.745.9600
F +1 408.745.9300

www.sonicwall.com

