

Client:

Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh



Web site: www.fhlp-pgh.com

8e6 Solutions:



R3000 IR

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Information Security Specialist
Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh

Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh Saves Time and Money with 8e6 Technologies' R3000 Internet Filter

Profile

Everyday, the Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh (FHLBank Pittsburgh) works behind the scenes, helping to make the communities of Delaware, Pennsylvania and West Virginia better places to live and work. As a critical source of credit, FHLBank Pittsburgh works with local banks to provide funding for home loans, new construction, and community development and business credit. As an advocate for community development, FHLBank Pittsburgh works with developers, bankers and community groups to make housing affordable and new jobs possible.

Challenge

FHLBank Pittsburgh has a major role in building thriving communities—by facilitating a steady stream of reliable credit for affordable housing, small business growth and other general economic and community development needs. It is crucial, then, for FHLBank Pittsburgh team members to have quick and cost-effective access to the latest financial and community information on the Web. With extremely sensitive banking information riding the security of the network, FHLBank Pittsburgh and other financial organizations cannot afford to allow Web-based threats to sneak into their system, including spyware, malicious mobile code, phishing, and other malware.

In addition, FHLBank Pittsburgh's IT department found that it was spending too much time maintaining bandwidth levels. Because of the bank's fairly complex network and 300 users, most IT staff were also finding themselves devoting large amounts of their day to maintaining Internet connectivity and "policing" employee Web activity.

Finally, FHLBank Pittsburgh needs to protect private customer data, including protecting customer records and information and preventing unauthorized access and threats to this information. A Web content filtering solution protects against unauthorized access to sensitive information. The consequences for not doing so may involve government fines, lawsuits, and possible loss of business.

Solutions

Before installing 8e6, FHLBank Pittsburgh was utilizing another Web content filtering product. After evaluating 8e6 Technologies' R3000IR, FHLBank Pittsburgh switched from their existing filtering solution.

The R3000IR is a compact filtering and reporting solution designed to support up to approximately 1,500 users in small to mid-sized organizations. It is an alternative to 8e6's rack-mountable appliances. The IR is the size of a small

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desktop computer measuring 12.5” tall, and offers enterprise-quality filtering with integrated Web-use reporting. And just like the R3000, the IR’s key features include:

- **Real-Time Probes:** Administrators may monitor a user’s Internet usage in real-time to determine if that employee is using the Internet appropriately.
- **“X-Strikes” Blocking:** Blocks a user’s Internet access after he/she attempts to access “unacceptable” sites a specified number of times.
- **Google/Yahoo SafeSearch:** Blocks access to inappropriate content within the Google and Yahoo search engines, including images.
- **Customer Feedback Module (CFM):** Sends the most frequently visited non-categorized URLs from participating customers back to 8e6 Database categories.
- **SNMP:** Administrators may use Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP) to monitor R3000s in their networks, including traffic sent/received, CPU load, amount of free disk space, time since last reboot, and memory use.

“We were completely confident in the R3000IR’s ability to do its job. The best thing about it is the IT staff do not have to spend half to one hour every day maintaining the box—basically, we check up on it once every two weeks,” says FHLBank Pittsburgh’s Sam Short, Information Security Specialist. “It is very important to us as a financial organization to have stable Internet access, and the filtering solution as an appliance ensures that.” The IR’s reporting capabilities also met FHLBank Pittsburgh’s requirements as well: “We are very pleased with the speed and performance of the reports,” says Mr Short, “and FHLBank Pittsburgh managers and HR are as well.”

Result

“The entire installation only took a couple of hours and we had plenty of support,” says Short. “And the best thing is, the box basically runs on its own.” In addition, the FHLBank Pittsburgh IT team hasn’t had to contend with major spyware and malware attacks, since the R3000IR blocks access to sites that contain these known problems. And since installing 8e6’s solutions, FHLBank Pittsburgh has been operating within its budgeted bandwidth limit. Says Short, “The 8e6 R3000IR is paying for itself.”