



With the Cyberoam 250i, you can allocate resources or bandwidth to those who need it most, indicate which sites employees are allowed to visit, and even control time span permitted on the Internet.

Cyberoam CR250i: 24-hour network security

By DANDI GALVEZ

There isn't one large company out there that doesn't rely on the Internet. In today's business climate, even the smallest computer virus or malicious attack can bring your company down if you don't have adequate security. Just imagine months, even years, of data down the drain. Not only that, hours of manpower are often wasted due to employee abuse of the network.

There are many ways that these scenarios can be avoided, but the convenience of having one system cover all the bases would be priceless.

Enter the Cyberoam CR250i, the first-ever identity-based Unified Threat Management (UTM) system. This next-generation network appliance offers a complete range of security features such as stateful inspection firewall, VPN, gateway anti-virus, gateway anti-malware, gateway anti-spam, intrusion detection and prevention, content filtering, bandwidth management and multiple link management on a single platform. If it also featured a kitchen sink, we wouldn't be surprised.

The biggest features of the 250i include security against Internet threats both internal and external, and an impressive Granular Reporting System that produces a handy report on system and network changes – but most importantly – employee monitoring. IT managers can now take a look at all the digital footprints left by any employee who has logged on to their computers, from websites visited to how long they stayed there. There's also a report on how much data has been transferred from downloading to uploading.

This is crucial for management to weed out unproductive employees and have a say on the websites that they visit. In fact, another great strength of this device is its ability to customize the company's preferences when it comes to employees and the Internet.

The customization features on the 250i are incredibly deep. You can allocate resources or bandwidth to those who need it most, indicate which sites employees are allowed to visit, create personalized messages as an alternative to the "URL Blocked" screen, and even control time span permitted on the Internet.

Customized access options aren't exclusive to individual employees either. Protocols can be modified to include small groups of teams to entire departments.

Employees are assigned a unique user profile and password that enables them to be identified, whichever computer station they use. This feature allows the product to monitor actual real-time user activity; take instant action; identify non-business activity by the user; monitor IMAP POP3 IM P2P protocols; block file transfers in any environment; and provide intelligent real-time tracking and reporting.

Threat management is up-to-date with reported threats sent to an international server of blacklisted items.

As its name implies, this powerful UTM system brings financial benefits when all you deal with is a single vendor with a single annual maintenance contract. Despite a lengthy customization process, especially for medium to large corporate setups that have a staff of nearly 100-300 employees, the system actually frees up your network administrator after all has been done. Reports can be easily consolidated to identify threats or red flags.

Having all the security features you need in just a single appliance, the Cyberoam CR250i comes with a rather hefty pricetag. However, medium to large companies can benefit in the long run from this kind of investment. Other perks include 24/5 email and chat support and free 8/5 phone support.

For more details, visit www.cyberoam.com or call Cyberoam sales at 230-8762 or 230-8777.