

# NETGEAR® Provides Reliable IT Infrastructure for Public Library System



## Profile

Dan Landry is the Network Manager for the Santa Cruz Public Libraries – a City-County library system providing library services to Santa Cruz County, California. With 11 locations spread throughout the county, the library system serves more than 60,000 active registered borrowers, with checkout services for books and multimedia items, as well as Internet access via 110 Internet-connected Linux thin clients throughout the system. The network also includes 220 staff computers running Windows XP.

## Background

Five years ago, Dan purchased six NETGEAR® ProSafe® FSM750 and FSM726 fully managed switches to manage the traffic from the 50 publicly-accessible terminals located in the main branch, separately from the staff computers. Dan was so pleased with the results that within the next year he purchased four more switches to handle the traffic from the 60 additional computers located throughout the 10 branches. Dan is happy to report that in the entire five years of operation, all 10 switches have performed flawlessly.

Then last year, the Santa Cruz Public Libraries began to migrate their network to a Linux solution, and required a file server for the staff network that would perform effectively in a Linux environment, yet continue to support the Windows clients. Additionally, an aging security appliance and the increasing need for robust reporting necessitated the purchase of a new gateway security solution.

With the library system's unique needs, coupled with a limited budget and the requirement for each component of the IT infrastructure to work together seamlessly, Dan turned to NETGEAR for the solution.

## PROBLEM/OBJECTIVE

**MANAGE TWO DIVERSE COMPUTING ENVIRONMENTS, CONSISTING OF DIFFERENT USERS WITH DISTINCT NEEDS, WITH ONE OVERARCHING SOLUTION**

Like most small and mid-sized businesses, the Santa Cruz Public Libraries must address specific IT needs with a limited IT budget. But unlike most businesses, it must manage two sets of users, each with very different needs and access permissions. Every component of the system's IT infrastructure must also have the ability to function in a heterogeneous environment, with a Linux network backbone coupled with both Linux and Windows XP clients.

"Our gateway security solution must be capable of managing two diverse sets of Internet security policies – one for traffic from staff Windows XP systems within our firewall, and one for publicly-accessible Linux thin clients in the branch locations", says Dan. "In addition to the two sets of policies, the security solution must be capable of handling significant volumes of inbound and outbound Web and Email traffic, from clients spread across 11 different physical locations."

The file server for the 220 staff computers presented challenges of its own. It had to be capable of running Linux, yet also handle the Windows XP clients. "Given that we had almost no money, we looked at all kinds of alternatives", says Dan. "We even strongly considered constructing our own, but we determined that the cost of supporting it would far outweigh the initial benefit. We decided we'd be better off going with a cost-effective solution that was actively developed and supported."

## SOLUTION

**NETGEAR® PROSECURE™ AND READYNAS® DELIVER THE REQUIRED SECURITY FLEXIBILITY AND STORAGE CAPACITY IN ONE COST-EFFECTIVE SOLUTION**

For the gateway security solution, Dan chose the ProSecure™ STM300 Web and Email security appliance. Dan was familiar with and very satisfied with the Stream Scanning technology in the STM300, having been a satisfied user of that technology for years with other products. "It was a no-brainer", says Dan. "The STM300 added a lot of additional

functionality over our existing security appliance, including a very low instance of false positives, improved spam filtering, user and group based filtering policies, and far better reporting capabilities."

The file server took significantly more research. However, after a thorough investigation of the alternatives, Dan determined that the best performing, most reliable and cost-effective solution for his cross-platform file serving needs was the NETGEAR ReadyNAS® 1100 rackmount storage system. With 2TB of capacity from four hot swappable hard drives, the ReadyNAS 1100 provides the power, performance, and reliability the Santa Cruz Public Libraries requires – at a price point they can afford. The ReadyNAS also supports multiple RAID levels, including 0, 1, 5, and X-RAID™, allowing future capacity growth on the fly.

## RESULT

**A WINNING TEAM**

The ReadyNAS was placed into the production environment three months ago, and has performed well. "Over and above any performance benefits, the win for us is the manageability of the ReadyNAS system", explains Dan. "With the ReadyNAS, we have one place to go for docs, and one place to go to back them up. That saves us a great deal of time and countless headaches."

The STM300 has provided all the security benefits Dan had relied upon with the original appliance, plus additional functionality to keep the inbound and outbound traffic – from both the public and staff systems – safe from an array of Internet-borne threats. The STM300 has also kept thousands of spam emails from employee mailboxes – daily. "We are seeing the full array of what's in the wild, given the widely divergent users on our system", explains Dan. "But with the STM300, we haven't experienced any downtime due to spam, malware, or viruses."

And Dan's favorite part about his NETGEAR switches, security appliance, and file server? "The NETGEAR components have been reliable, and the support has been there when I needed it."



ReadyNAS® 1100

**NETGEAR®**  
ReadyNAS®



ProSecure™ STM300

**PROSECURE™**  
SECURITY ARCHITECTURE BY NETGEAR®



ProSafe® FSM726

**NETGEAR®**  
PROSAFE®

\*The 5-Year Hardware Warranty and the Lifetime Hardware Warranty only cover hardware, fans, and internal power supplies, and does not include external power supplies or software. Hardware modifications or customization void the warranty. The warranty is only valid for the original purchaser and cannot be transferred.

NETGEAR, the NETGEAR logo, Connect with Innovation, ProSafe, ProSecure, ReadyNAS, and X-RAID are trademarks and/or registered trademarks of NETGEAR, Inc. and/or its subsidiaries in the United States and/or other countries. Other brand names mentioned herein are for identification purposes only and may be trademarks of their respective holder(s). Information is subject to change without notice. © 2009 NETGEAR, Inc. All rights reserved.