Galapagos is a European biotechnology company specialized in drug discovery for the treatment of bone and joint diseases. To secure its business critical data the company wanted to implement a comprehensive security solution to secure its network, VPN, website and e-mail traffic. A proven technology and thorough support were two decisive criteria. VASCO’s aXsGUARD Gatekeeper proved to be the ultimate solution. aXsGUARD could be effortlessly integrated into Galapagos’ existing IT infrastructure providing the company with a cost-efficient, low-maintenance and all-encompassing security infrastructure.

Galapagos chooses aXsGUARD Gatekeeper to secure its business assets, network and VPN

The company’s BioFocus DPI service division offers a full suite of target-to-candidate drug discovery products and services to pharmaceutical and biotech companies as well as to non-profit organizations. Galapagos has entered into long term alliances for the majority of its research programs with top ten pharma companies. Today, the company has one of the largest discovery programs worldwide with regards to bone and joint diseases.

IN SEARCH OF PROVEN TECHNOLOGY AND SOLID SUPPORT

Galapagos’ activities require a lot of research and development. “It is vital that our corporate and research data remain secure at all times”, says Marc De Boeck, IT Director at Galapagos. “We therefore implemented a security infrastructure to secure our network data and protect our mail and website traffic. Unfortunately we experienced a lot of issues with our security system which often resulted in a frustrating search for a solution, sometimes lasting several weeks. As our IT resources are limited and system downtimes continued to afflict Galapagos’ activities, we went looking for a new security solution.”

One of the main requirements for Galapagos was that the new security solution had to be integrated into the company’s existing IT infrastructure. Other requirements such as extended support and a proven technology - preferably open source – were equally important. Only a small number of vendors, however, were able to offer Galapagos a suitable solution tailored to their existing infrastructure.

“We scoured the market for security solutions and aXsGUARD was one of the few appliances that could be perfectly integrated into our existing infrastructure”, Marc De Boeck tells us. “In the end, we chose for aXsGUARD Gatekeeper as no hardware appliance offers as much functionalities and such good service as aXsGUARD”, he claims.

AN AFFORDABLE MODULAR SECURITY SOLUTION

aXsGUARD Gatekeeper is a modular communications solution that acts as a gateway between the company's network and the Internet. On top of the aXsGUARD Gatekeeper authentication appliance, 8 different modules can be added the appliance integrating complex security functions to accommodate your company's needs. Collectively, these modules provide the most comprehensive security solution on the market. The seamless

The world's leading software company specializing in Internet Security
integration of these modules ensures a carefree solution that is easy to master and can be activated at any time. As customers can gradually add different modules according to their needs, they only pay for those modules they need today, making this solution attractive and affordable for SMEs as well as for blue chip companies.

KEEP VIRTUAL VERMIN OUT

Galapagos implemented aXsGUARD’s anti-virus and anti-spyware & anti-phishing module. “Email is vital for our business communication today”, Marc De Boeck points out. “A virus, however, could infect our system resulting in several costly days of downtime. Therefore we purchased the anti-virus module which automatically checks for viruses and related threats in all incoming and outgoing mails as well as mail attachments and web downloads.

aXsGUARD Gatekeeper’s anti-virus module automatically checks every fifteen minutes if new anti-virus software is available to secure your network from the latest threats. Downloads and updates are installed automatically without disrupting service.

Consequently, Galapagos also added the anti-spyware & anti-phishing module. “It is impossible to install anti-phishing en anti-spyware software on every computer in our network” says Marc De Boeck. “It is far more efficient to block unwanted traffic at the gateway. And that’s exactly what aXsGUARD Gatekeeper does.”

aXsGUARD integrates various blacklists and technologies to safeguard a company’s network. These blacklists are automatically and continuously updated.

The potential danger of viruses and malevolent software poses a real risk to organizations. Possible threats are evolving at a rapid rate. “That’s why we needed a security solution that evolved parallel with our security needs”, Marc De Boeck states. “aXsGUARD Gatekeeper offers us peace of mind as the appliance continuously adds new applications, software and services to secure our network and business data.”

HIGH-SPEED TRAFFIC GUARANTEED

With the Public DNS module, Galapagos is able to manage its own domain names. The module allows the company’s IT department to create aliases for their servers and URLs. The Public DNS module has another advantage as it provides Galapagos with the possibility to build complete redundancy for all servers hosted internally. If the server address line is down, aXsGUARD will automatically detect another available line assuring availability at all times.

Web traffic speed is optimized thanks to the “Web Proxy” and “Bandwidth Management” functionalities. Web proxy has a caching function that temporarily saves text and images from visited websites, ultimately optimizing surfing speed. By managing bandwidth, Galapagos can prioritize certain traffic over other and adjust bandwidth accordingly.

ALL REMOTE OFFICES CONNECTED TO ONE SECURE NETWORK

With operating offices in Belgium, the Netherlands, the US, the UK, France and Switzerland and sales offices in the US and Japan, the company wanted to implement a cost-efficient, low-maintenance solutions to secure its network worldwide. Galapagos wanted to deploy a transparent technology that wouldn’t impact the end-user.

Marc De Boeck: “A lot of our researchers and scientists travel frequently. They are committed to discovering effective drugs to treat bone and joint diseases and can’t be bothered with IT policies and securities. So we needed a solution allowing our employees to logon anywhere, anytime without further ado, just as they would at their home base.”

Moreover, Galapagos research projects are often conducted in collaboration with other companies and organizations. Meeting reports, documents and research results are shared between each member of the project team even when they aren’t employed at Galapagos. To avoid security breeches, Galapagos provided a secure online documentation system allowing every team member to post and download documents on Galapagos’ LAN by using a simple web browser.
To secure the critical data contained in the documents’ database, Galapagos deployed aXSGUARD’s SSL VPN module. This module allows the company to create so called e-tunnels. Normally, a tunnel is created between two VPN points for each VPN connection. When creating multiple VPN tunnels, the amount of tunnels increases exponentially.

The e-tunnel concept allows all traffic to be passed through one and the same e-tunnel, a maintenance friendly and cost-effective solution. All remote offices are connected by the e-tunnels and redundancy is guaranteed. The system automatically back ups all information without any human intervention.

No additional software needs to be installed on end-users’ computers. Scientists and researchers navigate to the VPN portal and logon with their username and password to access their personalized web page where they can access the company’s applications, file server, network and email.

AXSGUARD GATEKEEPER PROVIDES STABILITY AND RELIABLE SUPPORT

“Given the troubles we encountered with our previous security installation, an adequate support service was one of our main requirements when choosing a new vendor”, Marc continues. VASCO met Galapagos’ requirements by rendering an excellent support service. “Support is always at hand, one phone call is all it really takes”, Marc says delightedly. “The personalized approach and smooth collaboration reinforced our opinion. After all, the implementation of a comprehensive security solution doesn’t stop with the purchase of the hardware, after sales support is equally important.”

Since implementing aXSGUARD Gatekeeper system downtimes at Galapagos have been reduced to zero. System stability is further assured by the ‘high availability’ module. This module synchronizes data between two connected aXSGUARD appliances. If a hardware failure occurs or the Internet connection with the main system is lost, the backup system will take over all tasks without disrupting network service.

“aXSGUARD has provided Galapagos with a rock-solid system without compromising on user friendliness”, Marc De Boeck states. The appliance is easy to set up and its user friendly interface makes managing communications a breeze. “The different modules are all-round compatible assuring a seamless integration into the overall infrastructure. The modular system allows us to connect different servers on to the appliance, reducing maintenance as we only need to maintain one device”, Marc goes on.

AXSGUARD Gatekeeper provides stability and reliable support

Objective

Implement an overall security solution to secure Galapagos’ e-mail, website, network and VPN.

Challenge

The security solution must be implemented into Galapagos’ existing IT infrastructure. Stability and support are decisive factors, as Galapagos’ IT resources are limited. Secure remote access to the corporate network is a must.

Solution

aXSGUARD was one of the few solutions that could be perfectly integrated into the company’s exiting infrastructure. Since the implementation of aXSGUARD downtime is non-existent and rendered support is excellent. Galapagos’ employees and external researchers can securely access the company’s corporate network from anywhere in the world.

About Galapagos

Galapagos (Euronext: GLPG; OTC: GLPYY) is a drug discovery and development company with small molecule programs in bone and joint diseases, bone metastasis, cachexia, anti-infectives and metabolic diseases. It has established risk sharing alliances with GSK, Janssen Pharmaceutica, Eli Lilly and Merck. Through an alliance with MorphoSys, Galapagos is also developing new antibody therapies in bone and joint diseases. Its division BioFocus DPI offers a full suite of target-to-drug discovery products and services to pharmaceutical and biotech companies and to patient foundations, encompassing target discovery and validation, screening and drug discovery through to delivery of pre-clinical candidates. Galapagos currently employs 470 people and operates facilities in six countries, with global headquarters in Mechelen, Belgium. More info at: www.glp.com.
About VASCO

VASCO is a leading supplier of strong authentication and e-signature solutions and services specializing in Internet Security applications and transactions. VASCO has positioned itself as global software company for Internet Security and designs, develops, markets and supports patented DIGIPASS®, DIGIPASS PLUS®, VACMAN®, IDENTIKEY® and aXsGUARD™ authentication products. VASCO’s prime markets are the financial sector, enterprise security, e-commerce and e-government.

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