



Great Bay Software Leading the End Point Profiling Charge

By Patrick Barnard
April 15, 2008

It is with increasing frequency that organizations need to contract out jobs to third parties. As such, many enter into arrangements where they have temps, sub-contractors and consultants of various types using their facilities on a non-permanent basis. Obviously, these on-site workers -- whether they are there for the long or short haul -- need network access.

Unfortunately, many organizations do the foolish thing and open up their whole network to them which can lead to the theft of highly sensitive data. Therefore organizations which are reliant on third party services (or know they will be) are well-advised to seek a network access solution that allows for 'customized' access, meaning that your IT department decides who has permission to access what, on a group and/or individual basis, and for a set period of time.

Delivering this level of flexibility in network access control (NAC) is Great Bay Software's Sponsored Guest Access (SGA). This new security application lets IT administrators configure and monitor network security parameters for guest users, contract employees, and devices requiring temporary or specialized access in NAC or 802.1X networks. Interoperable with major NAC vendor solutions, including Cisco, Juniper, Symantec, and ID Engines, the software enables authorized company employees to create guest accounts, including the ability to manage the concepts of time and user permissions. SGA also allows for the implementation of an Acceptable Use Policy.

With SGA coupled with Great Bay's Beacon Endpoint Profiler network management solution, NAC Appliance and 802.1X administrators can get reports on guest user network behavior, along with an ongoing contextual inventory of all appliances and ports, including non-Windows and non-NAC/EAP devices. Thus the combined solution enables them to ensure efficient operation of their NAC and 802.1X environments.

"We're most proud of the fact that this product was customer driven, in that the requirements, features, and architecture of the system were almost entirely driven by the requests of our install base," said Steve Pettit, president of Great Bay Software, in a press release. "We listened and we delivered a solution in an area that is adjacent to our market, but was easily within reach because of our core technology.

Great Bay Software's Beacon Endpoint Profiler is a winner of TMC's (2006 Communications Solutions Product of the Year Awards and the company has an OEM agreement with Cisco for this product. For more information, visit www.greatbaysoftware.com.

Patrick Barnard is a contributing editor for TMCnet.