

Knowledge

smart thinking from Data Integration



DATA INTEGRATION


New website! www.dataintegration.com

We have launched a new web site with a fresh look and feel and more detailed information about our solutions and services. Visit www.dataintegration.com to have a look.



Application performance is critical. Don't get it wrong!

Application profiling is an essential element of application delivery projects.

 Companies are making significant savings by rationalising IT infrastructure at branch offices, enabling the use of centralised resources at data centres and reducing office space by providing mobile access to voice and data applications. However, this current trend for changing application delivery mechanisms has a dark side. Data Integration has found that companies which fall into the trap of not profiling their applications or defining SLAs during their project planning process are subsequently landed with a nasty surprise when they realise application performance has been degraded.

Based on our experience of these issues, we've put together a checklist of considerations for application delivery projects.

Checklist for application delivery projects

- 1 Understand the impact of the new delivery mechanism on end-user performance and isolate which elements within the delivery mechanism may need bolstering. The team analysing this, whether in-house or third-party, must consist of a cross-discipline skill set with at least server, application, networking, desktop and database professionals included.
- 2 When evaluating a product that is designed to optimise specific areas of the delivery mechanism, make sure that the team looks at a complete platform for optimisation rather than a point solution which may be obsolete in two years. (Remember what happened with Content Delivery Engines!)
- 3 As an indication of strength of product and to future-proof your investment, look at the longevity of the company and number of customers using the product line.
- 4 During a technical evaluation of a platform, remember to understand the protocols it addresses. Make sure that it optimises all IP traffic and not just TCP. Often UDP and GRE are overlooked, which can account for up to 30% of network traffic. Ensure the platform has QoS features, as adding capacity will not solve performance issues if critical applications are not allocated the bandwidth they need. Finally, look at reporting and central management; these are essential for ongoing management and justification of the investment.
- 5 Understand the financial and product stability of the manufacturer. For large projects, you need to be confident that both the product and company will be around for the lifetime of the technology.

Data Integration has specialist consultants who can profile applications and advise on optimisation solutions. To request more information, email info@dataintegration.com

For more information about any of the articles in this newsletter email info@dataintegration.com or phone **020 8875 6566**.

London South Bank University chooses Data Integration as preferred supplier



London South Bank University (LSBU) has chosen Data Integration to replace its legacy network with a resilient LAN and mobility solution to enable secure mobile working both on and off campus.



We are extremely pleased to have been selected to develop a flexible, resilient infrastructure for LSBU that will support its objectives for secure mobility and scale with the University's growth plans.

Soghra Zamani, Network Manager of the Computer Services Department at LSBU, said, "The University's staff and students work from a variety of locations, including their homes, which presents major technical and organisational challenges. This summer's network upgrade will deliver robust, reliable, flexible and high-performance ICT services and provide

users with secure access to University resources from anywhere and at any time."

"Data Integration's hands-on experience of building remote access and security solutions was one of the critical factors in choosing them for this project."

Data Integration is an expert in building secure but accessible networks designed to meet the special challenges of HE environments.

Visit www.dataintegration.com/education to find out more.

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Soghra Zamani, Network Manager, Computer Services Department, LSBU

City IT event – NAC deployment options



We will be holding breakfast briefings for City-based companies in October explaining different approaches to Network Access Control. If you would like an invitation, please email info@dataintegration.com

"Errors in DNS/DHCP are the major source of downtime in IP networks" (IDC)

But appliance-based delivery gives high reliability.



If you misconfigure a router you cut off an office but if you misconfigure your DNS you cut off your business. Your Network Identity Service is critical to your business yet it is often built on a foundation of generic servers that was first architected in the 1980s.

Routing, firewalls and storage are all routinely delivered by appliances, so why not DNS and DHCP? Data Integration has recently formed a partnership with Infoblox, whose network identity appliances deliver reliable, scalable, manageable and secure services, including DNS, DHCP, RADIUS, TFTP and IPAM.

Appliance-based delivery of these services has become recommended industry best practice because appliances are inherently more reliable, manageable, scalable and secure than software on general-purpose servers.

Email us at info@dataintegration.com to find out how you can have highly available Network Identity Services with Infoblox.

Remote access Malicious Software Protection option available

Juniper Networks' Malware Protection option now available for SSL VPN systems.

Once enabled as a feature, Malware Protection protects the end user's PC by scanning the computer for malicious applications before the end user is presented with the SSL VPN login screen. It works using behavioural analysis rather than signatures, so it is immediately effective, providing comprehensive protection against all types of keystroke loggers and screen scrapers.

Malware Protection is simple to deploy using MS ActiveX or as a browser plug-in and requires virtually no configuration.

Find out more about how Juniper Networks' Malware Protection can protect your PC by emailing info@dataintegration.com or calling us on **020 8875 6566**



SSL VPN hardware upgrade offer

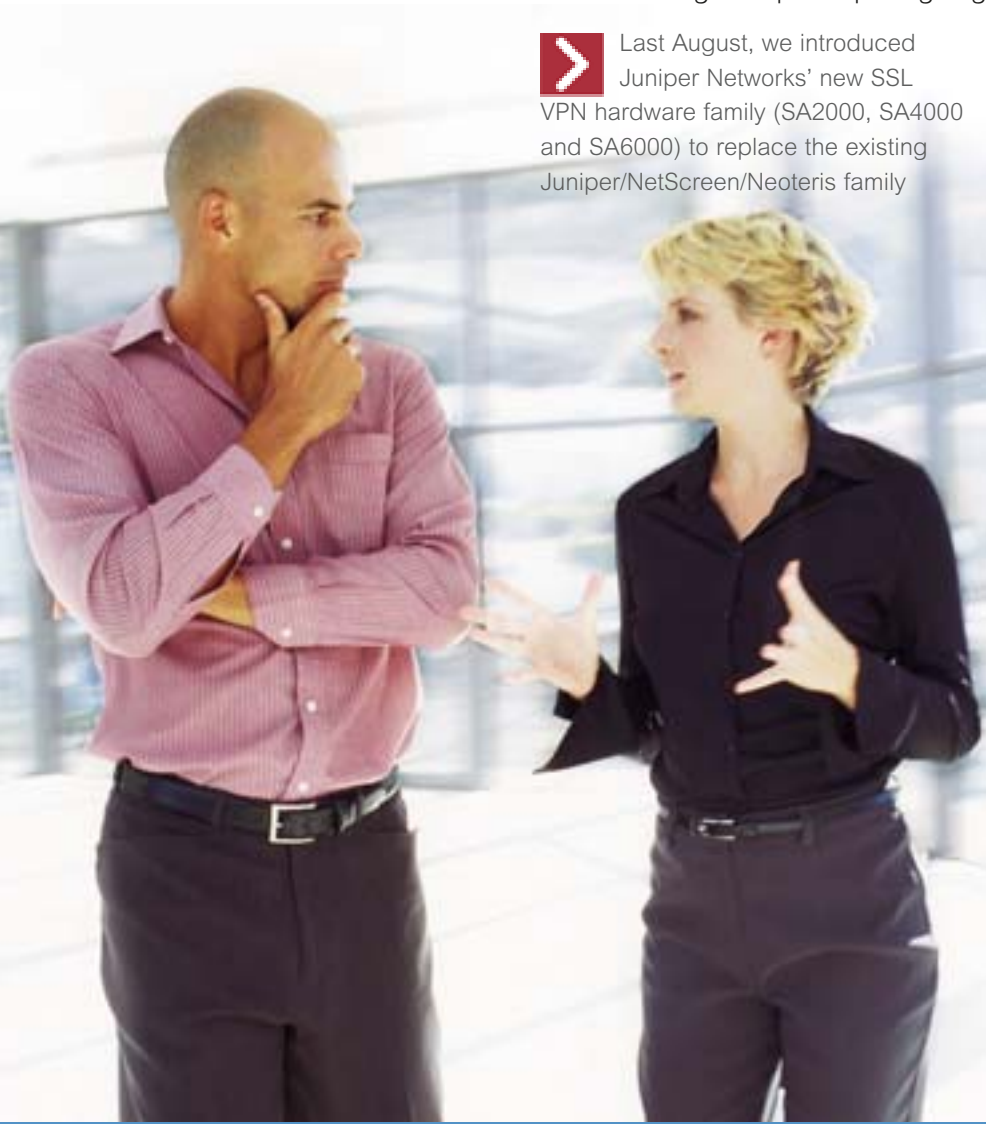
Take advantage of special pricing to get your system up to date.

Last August, we introduced Juniper Networks' new SSL VPN hardware family (SA2000, SA4000 and SA6000) to replace the existing Juniper/NetScreen/Neoteris family

(SA1000, SA3000 and SA5000). The newly introduced hardware features state-of-the-art technology and significantly improved performance, offering your users a better experience with optimised response times.


If you don't migrate to the new platform, you may not be able to take advantage of the new features that are constantly being added to the Juniper solution. Data Integration has extended its limited-time programme which enables you to migrate to this new hardware at an attractive special rate. Software can be upgraded at the same time if necessary, all within the package.

For more information on the benefits of upgrading, or to get a quotation to upgrade your system, just email us at info@dataintegration.com



Have passwords had their day?

Cost-effective two-factor authentication is now a reality.

 Analyst group Gartner recently warned that passwords are becoming increasingly unusable as organisations attempt to stay one step ahead of hackers. Complex passwords are still vulnerable to discovery by spyware, keystroke loggers or social engineering attempts and are a headache for end users.

Two-factor authentication devices such as smart cards and one-time password tokens are more secure but have generally been too expensive for most organisations to deploy widely. Entrust's IdentityGuard is a new, affordable multi-authentication platform for remote access or LAN access

which uses a variety of mechanisms to provide the right level of authentication for different types of transaction.


The system issues each user with a unique grid which can be printed onto a work ID card (see image to right). It verifies a user's identity by asking for the character at a set of coordinates on the grid.

Find out more: Data Integration is running webinars in September to demonstrate how IdentityGuard works. If you would like to join one, please email info@dataintegration.com



Data Integration named Juniper Networks' UK & Ireland Partner of the Year


Juniper Networks has named Data Integration as its UK & Ireland Partner of the Year 2006.

 The award recognises our in-depth knowledge of Juniper products and our ability to deliver them as integrated solutions. Data Integration is a Juniper Networks Enterprise Elite Partner and UK Service Centre, and last year we were named as Juniper's EMEA Service Centre of the Year.

Learn more about Juniper Networks at www.dataintegration.com/products

Data Integration achieves ISO 27001 information security standard

Data Integration is one of the first companies in the UK to achieve the new ISO 27001 international standard for Information Security Management Systems (ISMS).

 A substantial step up from the old BS 7799 standard, ISO 27001 demands greater precision in scoping and risk assessment, and has strengthened the requirement for effective measurement in ISMS monitoring and reviewing components.

Operating an ISO 27001-compliant ISMS underlines how seriously Data Integration takes IT security and not only ensures that our own assets are appropriately secured, but also enables us to advise our customers on the latest best practice and procedures.

Find out more at www.dataintegration.com



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