delivering security from the cloud

Security in the cloud can liberate your users from the restriction of Internet gateways, thereby improving both performance and flexibility. We suggest seven steps to make the migration a success.

Over the last two decades, enterprises have changed their view of the Internet as a recreational activity they tolerate, to recognizing it as a central part of business. Today, if you don't have the Internet, you can't work.

A carryover of this legacy is that Internet security has been focused on controlling access rather than focusing on performance, and typically uses appliances at Internet gateways. Although effective at controlling Internet access for corporate users, the approach is inflexible, throttles performance and doesn't support flexible working practices.

The alternative is to use a cloud-based security service, which can deliver secured Internet services to users at any location. With pay-per-user payment terms, enterprises can also scale services up and down as required.

Our suggestions for companies looking to successfully overhaul their security infrastructures follow.

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seven steps to cloud security success

1. does the cloud make sense for you?

Although the cloud offers financial, security and agility benefits, it is not necessarily the answer for every enterprise. If you want to retain a regional Internet gateway model, then it makes little sense to replicate it in the cloud. The transition to cloud must be accompanied by a shift in your Internet strategy to a much more distributed approach.

2. define the project scope

In assessing whether you need to change your Internet security approach, think about how your users access the Internet. In virtually every organization, the Internet has become vital for accessing an increasing number of key enterprise applications, and therefore, it needs to be always on and always protected. However, do you want to secure your users only within the corporate network or wherever they are, such as on the move, at client sites or at home?

3. consider a hybrid environment

Your Internet security infrastructure can usefully be segmented into two parts: end-user protection and data-center protection. The first is a perfect match with the cloud, and the second is a better match to dedicated security appliances. An example of the latter is incoming traffic to your data center, such as large e-commerce sites.

4. build a business case

The cloud offers a number of benefits that can be factored into a business case. These include: per-user pricing, flexibility to scale users up and down as required, the ability to add users wherever they are based, globally consistent security policy for users at all locations, and rapid security patching and updating.

5. assess the confidentiality of your data

With any cloud service, you need to accept that you will lose some control of your data. In the case of cloud security, your security logs will be stored in the cloud. These logs will have a record of your incoming and outgoing traffic and details of any configuration change and would be valuable to cyber criminals. In addition, your enterprise may also

have to comply with regulations that govern where the data must be stored, which can be difficult to achieve with some cloud services.

6. don't underestimate the complexity of moving to the cloud

Although the cloud ultimately offers a very flexible security infrastructure, it isn't off-the-shelf. The initial setup will require expert consultancy to customize the service to meet your specific security requirements. The main questions that need addressing include the method of sending traffic to the cloud, how to authenticate users, and to which applications users need access. The answers will depend on the enterprise LAN, WAN and application infrastructure and will be different for each company.

7. look for the right partner

With this complexity, it is vital to choose an experienced partner who can help you make the transition to a cloud security infrastructure. In addition, consider opting for a single source to provide your security and network services for secure, one-stop Internet services.

our solution

Web Protection Suite is the first line of defense for organizations against all known and unknown security threats. Deployed fully in the cloud, it realizes cost savings of up to 40% by eliminating the need to purchase, deploy and maintain your own hardware on site as well as the resources to run it on a 24/7 basis and the need to buy expensive software licenses.

All Web traffic (including HTML, JavaScript, Flash, active scripts and SSL-encrypted communications) flow to our cloud data centers for real-time scanning to detect inappropriate or malicious content, thereby ensuring improved security even when using public networks. Our platform scans over one billion Web requests a day, providing detailed analysis of Web usage and extensive Web security intelligence.

to find out more about cloud security, contact your local account team or visit us at **www.orange-business.com**

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