



## Success Story

Colombia's Salt Cathedral Has Prayers Answered with Comprehensive Network Protection from Zyxel



Government



CUSTOMER

Catedral de Sal



COUNTRY

Colombia



SOLUTION

Zyxel Security Solution

## Overview

### Challenges

- Replace outdated cybersecurity equipment with a UTM solution bringing together monitoring, management and troubleshooting
- Build a secure billing system during data transmission
- User-friendly management system required

### Results

- Comprehensive system protects network environment and prevents ransomware attacks
- Robust VPN for secure billing system data
- Easy-to-learn GUI interface
- Scalable and future-proof solution for simple expansion in the future

### Solution

- Zyxel Security Solution

### Summary

Catedral de Sal, or the Salt Cathedral, is a one-of-a-kind place of worship and architectural marvel. Located beneath the surface of the Earth in Colombia, the government-run tourist site was in increasingly desperate need of a powerful unified threat prevention solution to replace its aging security equipment in the face of rapidly rising cybersecurity threats. The system also required a user-friendly control interface capable of the rapid deployment and management of connected devices. Zyxel's comprehensive security solution proved the answer to the client's prayers, providing protection of the billing system data and easy-to-manage, effective defense against malware. So impressed were the cathedral's administrators that they're looking at a long-term partnership, with Zyxel's network solutions in mind for when the site's network is expanded down the road.

## Background

Catedral de Sal de Zipaquirá, or the Salt Cathedral of Zipaquirá in English, is like no church you've seen before. This Catholic house of worship was built in the tunnels of a salt mine 180 meters underground in a mountain in central Colombia. Opened in 1954, the architectural wonder is now a

## Challenges

In recent years, little had been done to keep the cathedral's network up to date, and its government administrators ran into increasing difficulty keeping it secure against the rising tide of cyberattacks, like ransomware, which was resulting in substantial losses for public and private organizations alike. They required an all-in-one and easy-to-use unified threat management (UTM) solution.

On the wish list was a reliable system provider with strengths in customizable solutions and troubleshooting. Furthermore, as the government planned to strengthen the cathedral's network infrastructure in the future, the new security system needed to be scalable and futureproof.

## Solutions and Benefits

The government's system integration partner, SICC de Colombia, recommended Zyxel, which already had a strong local presence and rich experience in implementing similar cybersecurity projects.

The cathedral chose the **USG110 Unified Security Gateway**, which provides comprehensive and real-time protection against malware threats. Featuring UTM, the all-in-one firewall includes anti-virus, anti-spam and filtering services. It supports high-speed virus scanning technology for identifying and blocking viruses quickly and efficiently. And, with a cloud-based IP reputation system, it can accurately detect spam, phishing and virus-containing emails from highly diverse sources within minutes, regardless of whether they contain common spam language or formatting.

More broadly, Zyxel's powerful Intrusion Detection and Prevention (IDP) service protects the cathedral's network from a wide range of attacks and suspicious activities, such as DoS and malicious backdoor applications. Moreover, the gateway features content filtering, SSL inspection and security policy in order to block access to malicious or non-business-related websites by using a category-based approach. The SSL inspection can block threats hidden in SSL-encrypted connections to ensure clean web connections.

The newfound peace of mind coming from the gateway was supplemented by the security analytics and reports the solution also provides, including network security threat identification and visual analysis on security service statistics

world-famous tourist destination while remaining a pilgrimage site for worshippers. Inside are marble sculptures and decor details carved into the rock, accented by colorful lighting.



and events, as well as application, website and traffic usage. The customized reports can also be automatically compiled on a daily, weekly or monthly basis. One specific concern had been regarding the data security of the cathedral's billing system. The administrators requested that a robust virtual private network (VPN) be built to secure all billing data. It was, thus the gateway now ensures secure business communication for site-to-client and site-to-site VPN deployments as well as keeps remote network communications private. The VPN makes the cathedral's IP address invisible to outsiders, such as hackers and intruders, to prevent them from accessing its information or tracking its activities. Now, employees can safely access their central database remotely while not worrying about their computers being paralyzed by a cyberattack. In addition to praising the security solution's high performance and reliability, the client has been especially appreciative of the GUI. The interface is simple to use and learn, the client said, which had helped its users deal with all cybersecurity tasks easily and effectively.

The gateway features an integrated WLAN controller that enables centralized authentication and access management of multiple APs in the same network. With the deployment's success, the cathedral plans to extend the access network with Zyxel. Because the salt in the mine's walls is corrosive to metal, fiber broadband is an ideal choice, and the client is leaning toward using Zyxel's GPON as the backbone of the network and access points to provide reliable WiFi connectivity to visitors and staff.

## Products Used

### USG110 • Unified Security Gateway



- High-performance, high-value Unified Security Firewall for small and medium-sized businesses
- Anti-malware protection with firewall, anti-virus, anti-spam, content filtering, IDP, next-generation application intelligence and SSL inspection
- Robust SSL, IPsec and L2TP over IPsec VPN connectivity and VPN high availability (HA)
- Built-in WLAN controller for centralized AP management and effortless WLAN scalability of up to 34 APs
- Comprehensive mobile broadband USB modem compatibility and multi-WAN load-balancing, failover and fall back support

### About Zyxel

Focused on innovation and customer-centricity, Zyxel has been connecting people to the Internet for over 30 years. Our ability to adapt and innovate with networking technology places us at the forefront of creating connectivity for telcos and service providers, business and home users. Zyxel is building the networks of tomorrow, unlocking potential, and meeting the needs of the modern workplace — powering people at work, life, and play. Zyxel, Your Networking Ally.

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