Success Story

Uzbek Bank Ensures Secure Network and Productivity with Zyxel Security Solution

Banking
INDUSTRY

Trustbank
CUSTOMER

Uzbekistan
COUNTRY

Zyxel Security Solution
SOLUCIÓN

Overview

Challenges

- Ensure highly secure communications between the headquarters and branches as well as remote workers
- Overhaul infrastructure with a new VPN solution with robust encryption to protect bank's sensitive information and assets
- Pass competitive, early-stage pilot testing
- Provide equipment with specific WAN and LAN port supplies for various devices, depending on their locations
- Consolidate multiple security and networking functions to stop cyberthreats and protect data

Solution

- Zyxel Security Solution

Results

- Secure IPSec VPN tunnels connect bank's headquarters and other locations
- Peace of mind with comprehensive threat protection
- Intuitive hardware and streamlined policy management allows solution to be installed and launched by a single person
- More competitive pricing than fellow manufacturers
- Employees able to work from home during the COVID-19 pandemic

"As a bank, we love counting our money, and with Zyxel, we were able to realize our goal of getting a quality product without overpaying. We're especially thankful that it prepared us just in time for the coronavirus. Almost the entire bank's non-essential workforce was transferred to remote work without breaking a sweat."

Timur Dzhumabaev
Director of Security Department, Trustbank

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NETWORKS

Background

It's an exciting time for Uzbekistan's economy. Tightly controlled since the ex-soviet state was founded in 1991, the economy has been opening and growing at a faster pace over the past five years. At the center of this drive are financial institutions like Trustbank.

With a dozen branches and over 1,000 employees nationwide, the bank is one of the largest in Uzbekistan and was in an almost perfect position to capitalize. Almost perfect. Until recently, the bank – like many of its competitors – had been giving insufficient attention and investment to its networking and security infrastructure, and it was facing visible and invisible problems as a result.

Challenges

First, there were obvious connectivity difficulties, causing delays and hampering productivity during everyday operations. For example, the outdated network meant communication and file-sharing between branches and the bank's head office was slow and haphazard.

And then there were the unseen cybersecurity risks.

Online threats evolve literally by the day, and even small businesses need to be prepared for them. For a large company like Trustbank, especially considering the sensitive data and financial assets it handles, not having the most effective security measures available poses a potentially serious weakness in corporate risk management and in shareholder and customer trust.

Recognizing the situation, Trustbank acted to comprehensively modernize its infrastructure. Most importantly, it wanted to create IPSec VPN tunnels connecting its headquarters with bank branches, currency exchange points, and point-of-sale systems. It also aimed to replace all component equipment and establish new communication channels between its branches and headquarter.

Solutions and Benefits

To do so, it turned to the system integrator Light Technology, a Zyxel partner in Central Asia.

"Our priorities for the project were that the solution was reliable, that it could be integrated easily, and that getting and implementing tech support afterward would be easy," said Tahir Aliyev, a Light Technology project manager. "It was also important for us to have a specific number of WAN and LAN ports for various devices, depending on their locations, so the vendor needed to offer diverse product line variations."

The tender received bids from four major network equipment manufacturers. Trustbank chose to go with Zyxel, Aliyev said, due to its wide product line, successful pilot testing, and more cost-effective solutions.

At the heart of the overhaul was Zyxel's unified security gateways, with two **USG1900 gateways** deployed at the bank's head office. This firewall delivers high availability and extensive anti-malware protection, while its unified security policy streamlines firewall and security feature configuration, making for faster, easier, and more consistent management. A cluster of ninety **USG20 gateways** were installed at locations across the country. These business firewalls provide rapid VPN-secured connections with Trustbank's network, as real-time inspection and multi-layer network protection identifies and disposes of cyberthreats. Furthermore, thanks to the intuitive GUI design and unified management, it took only one technician to install the gateways and get the new network online.

"With Zyxel, we were able to realize our goal of getting a quality product without overpaying," said Trustbank's security chief, Timur Dzhumabaev.

And, as he explained, Trustbank recently ran into another advantage of Zyxel's solution – one it hadn't even anticipated.

"We're especially thankful that it prepared us just in time for the coronavirus. Almost the entire bank's non-essential workforce was transferred to remote work without breaking a sweat. We've been using ZyWALL SecuExtender, and all these staff have been working from home successfully."

Looking ahead, Light Technology's Aliyev sees a bright future for the bank – with Zyxel's help, of course.

"The prospects for Trustbank are good. Together, we're looking at opening more bank branches as well as rolling out Zyxel equipment to more cash machines, currency exchange booths, and the like, and for this, we intend to use the latest generation of ATP series gateways."

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N E T W O R K S

Products Used

USG20-VPN • Business Firewall

- Robust hybrid VPN (IPSec/ SSL/L2TP over IPSec)
- Facebook WiFi, Intelligence social media authentication
- Auto-provisioned client-to-site IPsec setup with Easy VPN
- More secure VPN connections with SHA-2 cryptographic
- Device HA Pro dedicated heartbeat port ensures smart handover
- Hotspot management for authentication, access control and billing

ZyWALL USG1900 • Unified Security Gateway

- UTM Firewall for medium- and large-sized businesses and campuses
- Complete network protection with firewall, Anti-Virus, AntiSpam, Content Filtering 2.0, IDP, Application Patrol
- Express Mode with advanced Cloud Query technology
- Robust SSL, IPSec, and L2TP over IPSec VPN connectivity as well as VPN High Availability
- SecuReporter, cloud-based intelligent analytics and report service
- Unified security policy
- Device HA Pro ensures smart handover
- Hotspot management supported

About Zyxel Networks

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 business and home users.
We're 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.