



## SECURITY

# Why are 90% of firms moving to UTM?

**M**ost medium to large European companies will consolidate their network security on a single hardware appliance in the next year, but cost is not the only driver, writes Warwick Ashford.

Ninety per cent of IT directors polled plan to consolidate their network security in the coming months. Reducing cost is one of the main reasons, but simplified network security management is the biggest driver overall.

Rick Cole, IT manager at financial services firm B&CE, says moving to a single appliance for all network security is a "no-brainer". The switch was prompted by B&CE's need to upgrade its firewall and add capacity to support new e-commerce projects.

"I could not see the sense in getting to grips with several software products, when it could be done all in one package," says Cole.

B&CE will run its new firewall on a Fortinet unified threat management (UTM) appliance and gradually add other network security applications.

Organisations are typically able to put e-mail filtering, web filtering, intrusion prevention, network gateway anti-virus, and access control applications on a UTM appliance.

Cole says administrative benefits include having a single point of contact for support and not having to manage several separate software licences and service contracts. IT staff will only have one management console to learn, there will be improved visibility of network activity, and better reporting through consolidation.

Andy Hamilton, network manager at University College Oxford, says, "Simplified training and quicker support from one company are definite benefits [of UTM appliances]."

Improved security is another big benefit of having a single appliance. "There are no interoperability issues. It is also easier to secure one box than multiple boxes," he says. ●

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