

Success Story (June, 2008)

Two years after acquiring a SecurActive NSS solution, Philippe Bernard, the network and telecom manager of the Hopale Foundation (specialised hospitals in the Nord-Pas de Calais, France) gives us his feedback about this network behavior analysis solution.



Philippe Bernard,

Network and Telecom manager
Hopale Foundation

*"With SecurActive NSS, I can
now focus on the evolution of my
network!"*



Hopale Foundation

(Association of specialised
hospitals in the Nord-Pas de
Calais, France)

1000 IP devices, 6 remote sites
linked to the main network based
in network by 2-Mbps-links.

RL: What were your main reasons for purchasing SecurActive NSS?

PB: The Hopale foundation network is made of 6 remote sites connected to our main network in Berck (France) by 2-Mbps-MPLS lines. In total, more than 1000 machines are on our network infrastructure.

Two years ago, we wanted to get a better visibility of our network traffic for various reasons: to determine the most consuming applications in terms of bandwidth, to verify the use of Peer-2-Peer in our network. We also wanted a tool to assist us in the deployment of new applications.

In order to satisfy our needs of capacity planning and network visibility, we tested different Opensource solutions. These solutions are usually effective, however they have too many limitations: they are inadequate in very large networks, difficult to implement, the analysis of the results remains both complex and time consuming, and so on.

We decided to contact our network reseller in order to get a solution which could fulfil our needs.

Our partner recommended us a network behavior analysis solution called SecurActive NSS. After a Proof of Concept on our network of this tool, I was straight away attracted by this solution and, above all, by the exchanged flows matrix. This feature does indeed show me the status of the whole network in a single view. We immediately went from the stage of "proof of concept" to the validation of the concept.

How do you use SecurActive NSS?

SecurActive is directly implemented on our main network. This allows us to see all flows in our core network but also between the main network and our 6 different remote sites.

We use the SecurActive NSS solution daily. In fact, I set different report configurations allowing me to get a

summary of the performance and the availability of my network every day. Every morning, I analyse these reports in order to get a global view of my network.

If I notice any abnormal behaviour or a security issue, I just have to go to the SecurActive's GUI to determine the origin and the cause of this problem, and then find the best solution to resolve it.

Who uses SecurActive in your team?

There is only myself and one other person responsible for the whole management of the Hopale Foundation network. I am currently the only one to use the SecurActive solution. Despite being the only one trained to use this solution, its use is very intuitive and someone with a network background can easily use and analyse the results provided by SecurActive. The navigation on the graphical interface is based on the same principle: from the discovery of a problem to the origin of this problem. You therefore don't have to analyse loads of data as you do with sniffer solutions.

After 2 years of use, what is your feedback with regards to the SecurActive solution?

The global feedback of SecurActive NSS deploying in the Hopale foundation network is more than positive. We have, thanks to SecurActive, learned a lot about how our network was behaving and we made considerable productivity gains, mainly with regards to the daily administration of our network.

We can, my colleague and I, be focused on the evolution of our network because we know the reports generated every day by SecurActive, as well as the different networks and security alerts we set up, will prevent all potential network and security anomalies.

RL