Protecting Against The Inconceivable

OpenROUTE Bulletproofs Your Network Access

An OpenRoute Dinner Seminar

by Barry Eames

Say it with me now,
"Remote access, Internet, VPN . . .
Good!
Ego surfers, hackers, data loss . . . Bad!"

All this open system architecture stuff makes for a wonderfully exciting world of communications possibilities, but the fact that you can get past the security (assuming that there is some in the first place) is a frightening proposition. It leaves the door wide open for malicious acts of theft, espionage, or worse. O-o-o, velly skeary boys and girls!

Open Systems Architecture Needs Enhanced Security

At the last hosted seminar they showed how to stomp hard on intruders' little cyber fingers using their solid line of GlobeTrotter remote access routers. This time out it was more of the same, but with a much heavier pair of boots the GTX1000 series of MODULAR Multi-protocol router.

This new addition to their already impressive line of remote access routers is designed to meet the needs of small to medium sized remote offices and Internet subscribers, and it might just be the ultimate remote access platform. It's integrated, combining key

That was the salient message from host OpenROUTE Networks Inc. at February's dinner seminar. Canadian Country Manager, Eric Krauss identified two main trends in communications right now: modem-based to shared-line-access; and routers in place of Remote Access Servers, primarily in support of Virtual Private Networks (VPN). These are enjoying huge popularity right now, but the odds of creating a security breach are growing with them.

VPN's consist primarily of secure encrypted tunnels which is OK, it's unlikely a hacker is going to be able to gain something useful from the streams of scrambled data. Unfortunately, most people forget about making the node secure too. Access at the node is addressed by authentication, and any savvy hacker is going to focus the attack there, generally the weak link in the communications chain. So, a total VPN solution includes encryption to make the pipe safe, plus node security, which is the firewall and the secure routers.

"Networking with a Personality"

OpenROUTE eats security hackers for breakfast, and brother, do they ever know how to wrap a security blanket around your communications. Linus would be very comfy.

networking services including, dial up, dedicated ISDN, POTS, frame relay into a completely modular, fully scalable, high capacity, and high performance solution.

Here are just some of its features:
- open systems architecture, scalable
- wide array of WAN interface cards (what they call "Personality Modules") over a dozen of them
- core routing engine with dual 33Mhz CPU's, one Ethernet LAN, a console port/service port, system memory expandable to 36 MB, and fast flash memory, room for 3 personality modules
- sleek compact office design.

This is a high performance firewall router for internet, remote access, and VPN applications, and this one adds multi-protocol security features and modular construction to its companion GT60 and GT70 line. Included is support for VPN with SKIP, Firewall, and RADIUS services.

Edwin David, OpenROUTE's effervescent Sales System Analyst offered this guarantee: "Connectivity with the industry installed base. You will always be connected, or we'll fix it, make it work, or refund your money".

He dazzled the attendees with yet another killer presentation, and showed so much faith in his company's product that he included a live link via the internet to his own personal "server" located

somewhere deep in a basement.

Oh yeah, he used a 386-25 laptop computer to do it. Mr. David is a velly skeary guy too!

As always, OpenROUTE's goal is protecting data on the Internet. Visit their web site at: http://www.openroute.com

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