CommuniGate
SYSTEMS

INDUSTRY

Sentech is an independent and fully commercially operated state-owned enterprise accommodating narrowband functionality on a common communications platform. Sentech's signal distribution network forms the backbone of broadcasting in South Africa. Since 2002, Sentech has provided international and domestic telephony and broadband wireless services, making them a major force in the global telecommunications and multi-media industry. Sentech is a leader in providing cutting-edge, world-class broadband communications solutions and services to its customers.

Sentech offers: "Terrestrial broadcasting coverage in analog format to 98% of South African broadcasters; C-band capacity linking radio and TV transmissions as well as business broadcasting, data casting and interactive distant learning. Sentech also introduced the first suite of broadband services to the country of South Africa." All of these solutions are provided via satellite or high-powered radio frequency with no need for a fixed phone line. To date, Sentech offers: around 215 transmission high-sites, almost 600 TV transmitters, over 700 FM radio transmitters, as well as a number of satellite services, short and medium wave transmitters, and a full array of signal distribution technologies through these satellite and terrestrial systems.

**CommuniGate Pro at Sentech—
Multiple Domains in a Single Environment**

CHALLENGE

Sentech was using an In-house built mail system as their public email server for their InfoSat ISP. Their self-built system was adequate, but was causing numerous security problems that were unsettling to the company. Sentech was expanding, and they needed a program that would incorporate the old features of their previous email solution, but with newer and higher levels of security and service. Sentech also had to create scripts to run new features on their old email server. This proved to be too time consuming, so they wanted a solution that would have the ability to incorporate these features without their staff having to take the time to create new code.

SOLUTION

"CommuniGate Systems commercial approach to the environment of ISP messaging, together with a highly knowledgeable and highly skilled development team have managed to keep themselves as a leader in the mail application arena by introducing new features that meet changing customer requirements in a timely and controlled manner." With 217 domains, and 1500 accounts per domain, Sentech deploys almost all of CommuniGate Pro's functions over a large-scale user base.

For Sentech, CommuniGate Pro takes care of a variety of online operations, and offers them the capability to expand with their business. "Within the year we plan to implement the GautengOnline project, where 1.0 million mailboxes are being created for 1100 schools in the Gauteng region," and after viewing a variety of options, who did they choose as the server for this large-scale project? "The mail boxes will be created using the CommuniGate Pro Dynamic Cluster environment. The dynamic cluster offers a robust and scalable solution that allows us to accommodate a large number of users with little to no hassle."

SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE

Sentech deploys their Dynamic Cluster with three front-end and three back-end servers. Their three front-end and back end servers are HP DL380's, and contain multiple Intel Xeon 3.2ghtz processors. They have a Net-Apps NFS FAS960 shared file system connected to their servers, containing 11 volumes with over 160 disks, which allocates 2.45TB of space to run their CommuniGate Pro Dynamic Cluster on. All this is running through a Cisco Systems 11501 content services switch.

BENEFITS

"CommuniGate Pro is a messaging system that is designed for the ISP model and fit well with the Sentech mail hosting business model." For Sentech, CommuniGate Pro offered the functionality wherein multiple domains can be created and managed in a single environment. CommuniGate Pro offered a dynamic cluster environment which Sentech takes advantage of, allowing for efficient use of storage resources. Furthermore, the dynamic cluster features has allowed Sentech to take on more projects and more fully explore mail hosting.

CommuniGate Pro offers un-paralleled support and cutting-edge technology all wrapped up in one package. Besides Dynamic Clustering, CommuniGate Pro implements customized web skins, MAPI, IMAP, POP and web-mail capabilities. Sentech also uses third party plug-ins such as, Kapersky Virus Scanner, and the Mailshell SpamCatcher, to secure their system. CommuniGate also offers Voice over IP, which lets you use your existing dedicated, high speed connection to make local, long distance and international phone calls. For Sentech of South Africa, "CommuniGate Pro was the scalable solution we were looking for."

CommuniGate
S Y S T E M S

2