Biblionet Groningen is an organization that unites 67 libraries across 24
communes in the Dutch province of Groningen. The organization's network
infrastructure is based on two separate networks. The one network facilitates
the office applications and the library system Vubis Smart, for managing the
lending. The database with all the data is centrally located in Groningen. The
libraries have a VPN connection to the central location. A number of PCs in the
libraries are connected to the second network, allowing members to access
the Internet for at no charge. In total, there are about 180,000 members, about
a third of the total population of the province. Via the PCs, they can access the
libraries’ catalogues, as well as specific Web sites and databases, such as certain
historical archives, Web sites of newspapers and magazines, etc. Via the
SonicWALL® solutions, from its central location, Biblionet Groningen manages
the security of all PCs connected to one of the networks.

“We had a VPN solution in the past but it needed to be replaced,” says Richard
de Vries of Biblionet Groningen’s ICT department. “Because our organization
has 67 locations across the province, we wanted a firewall that could be
managed centrally and remotely via SonicWALL’s Global Management System.
The different locations have been divided into seven clusters. Via hub/spoke,
we wanted to limit the traffic between the different clusters. In addition, we
wanted a solution that would facilitate central work station management of
the Internet PCs and that would offer us a good general price and performance
balance.” Biblionet researched the market and decided on a secure connection
between the libraries through SonicWALL. Biblionet worked out the solution
with SonicWALL PRO 4060 and 3060 network security appliances, and with the
SonicWALL TZ 170 network security appliance.
Because our organization has 67 locations across the province, we wanted a firewall that could be managed centrally and remotely via SonicWALL’s Global Management System. In addition, we wanted a solution that would facilitate central workstation management of the Internet PCs and that would offer us a good general price and performance balance.

–Richard de Vries
ICT Department
Biblionet Groningen

Secure network opening
At the central location in the city of Groningen, Biblionet has 1 Gbit Internet access via Surfnet. Even the largest library in the network, in the city of Groningen itself, has a 1 Gbit Internet connection. The other libraries are fitted with ADSL connections with 10 Mbit download and 1024 Kbit upload capabilities. In every library, there is a SonicWALL TZ 170 with Enhanced OS. In the central location, Biblionet has two redundant SonicWALL PRO 4060 network security appliances. “This way, we open up the network and create two DMZs,” clarifies Richard de Vries. “In the first place, there is one DMZ for our own use, with among others, applications for Biblionet employees, our own e-mail solution, the Intranet, the electronic education environment, etc. We also have an extra DMZ where we host certain solutions for third parties.” After all, Biblionet Groningen offers services to other institutions across the city and the province, such as schools, pharmacies, museums, care centres and the Groningen archives. In addition, Biblionet has two redundant SonicWALL PRO 3060 network security appliances at its central location in Groningen. Those manage the VPN connections with the libraries and route the traffic onto the SonicWALL PRO 4060 network security appliances. The library of the city of Groningen also boasts another two completely separate SonicWALL PRO 4060 network security appliances.

“Since the installation of the SonicWALL solutions, the network security has been noticeably increased,” says Richard de Vries. “The main advantage is that we have centralized everything. From there, we manage the SonicWALL TZ 170 installations and the PCs in the different libraries remotely.” Because Biblionet manages both the security and the PC workstations, the organization achieves important time and efficiency gains. When a problem occurs in one the libraries, the people from Biblionet’s ICT department no longer need to physically go on site to assess the situation. Moreover, the services to members of the libraries have improved. They can visit the libraries and do their research via the network in a secure way.

SonicWALL Benefits

- Unified Threat Management firewall for network security.
- Secure Internet traffic for members of the library.
- Secure VPN traffic for employees.

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