

Case Study

Ministry of Ecology



The Ministry of Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and the Sea, in charge of green technologies and climate change negotiations. To the multiple objectives which the Ministry has to meet in terms of sustainable development and biodiversity preservation, is now added the new challenge of securing its information system.

Needs

Following a security audit conducted in 2009 by Solucom, an independent consulting firm specialized in information systems management, various needs have been clearly identified in particular in operations traceability and sensitive data access management.

The Ministry of Ecology information system which holds and processes various sensitive data (financial, contractual, relative to partners or agents), should be preserved from any threats (accident, error, malevolence) and be compliant with the new security models. To reach its objectives and answer regulatory demands requested by the information system security global policy (ISSGP), the information system directors had to find a reliable, quick to deploy and easy to use product.

The sought-after solution had to be at once capable of tracing operations carried out on the Information System equipments and registering administrative sessions on the servers hosting the critical applications. The information system access control, another important point identified by the Information System Direction of the Department, had to allow specific rights attribution to the Information System internal and external users. The objective was to only give them access to the equipments and accounts on which they were authorized to execute operations while keeping the possibility of modifying this rights anytime, or even revoking them in case of a user departure or the end of a service provider contract.

Solution

The Ministry of Ecology teams have chosen Wallix and its product, Wallix AdminBastion (WAB), for its administration simplicity and the innovating approach of the proposed solutions.

An important part in choosing the WAB was Wallix flexibility during the test period that predated the product deployment. Determining factors in the decision-making were the possibility of tracing and registering connections carried out by privilege account users on critical equipments and the administrators' access right management.

The WAB answered the Department needs in terms of business application control and proof elements provision (assign carried out operations on equipment to their authors) in case of problems and incidents. Session recording and storage conditions allowed for an easy reconstruction of the operations in the frame of sensitive equipment administration.

www.wallix.com

Email : sales@wallix.com

118 rue de Tocqueville
75017 Paris

Tél. : +33 (0)1 53 42 12 90

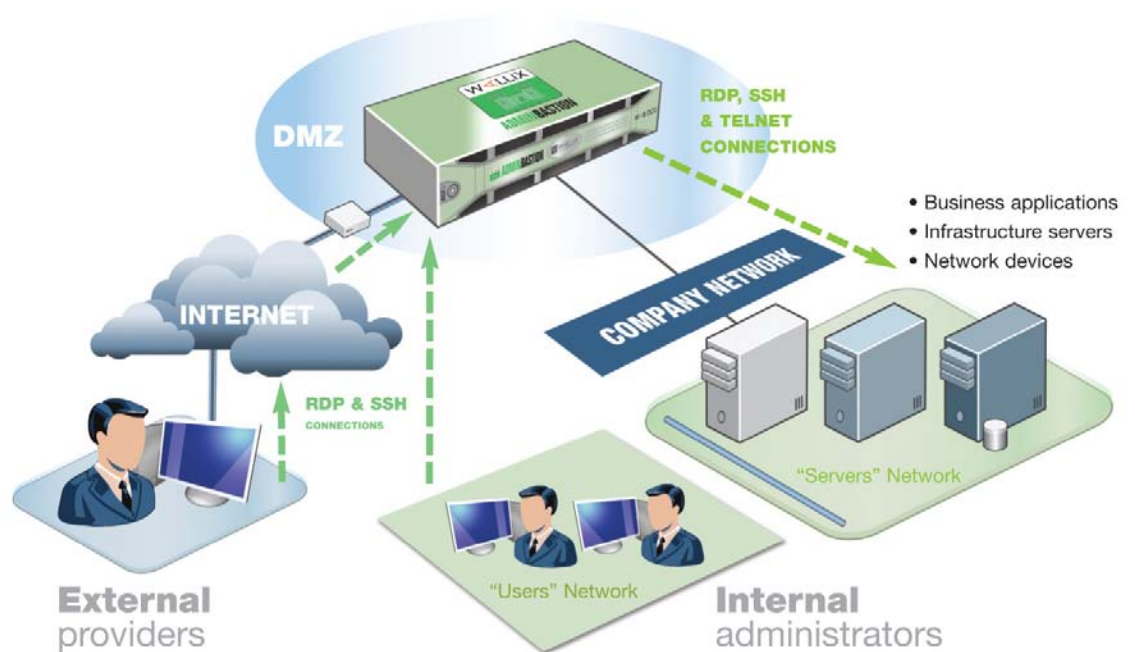
Fax : +33 (0)1 43 87 68 38

The Department is equipped with two HA (high availability) WAB 50 on his main site and two others on a remote location.

The HA functionality was established by installing a cluster made up of two WAB appliances (master/slave) with fault tolerance (active/passive) in the Information System. This architecture allows automatic service resumption (access to target equipments and web console, session recording, etc.) and brings service continuity in case of unavailability or dysfunction of the production appliance.

Today, 12 internal and 3 external users go through the WAB to manage about 60 servers (mainly Windows 2003 and 2008 servers and Linux Debian). The main protocols used are SSH, TSE (RDP) and SCP.

An original use of the WAB was even found, since it is also used by the IS teams to provide information on the server installation procedures in order to replicate them easily on other machines, thanks to the recording session feature.



"Information System directors become more and more demanding and they want robust secure solutions in order to answer their problems. With WAB we have a stable product that we don't have to reboot every five minutes. It's a reassuring and reliable product that will become an inescapable element of information systems."

Christophe LOUVARD

Director hosting unity/ Ministry of Ecology central server exploitation

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75017 Paris

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Fax : +33 (0)1 43 87 68 38