

# AAH Deployed Firewall7 to get an insight into their LAN and Ensure Productive bandwidth Usage.

## Case Study



### Organization

Action Africa Help

### Country

Uganda, Africa

### Industry/ Vertical

Non-Governmental Humanitarian Organisation



## Corporate Profile

The National Social Security Fund (NSSF) is National Saving Scheme mandated by Government through the National Social Security Fund Act, Cap 222 (Laws of Uganda) to provide social security services to employees in Uganda.

NSSF is a provident fund (pays out contributions in lump sum). It covers all employees in the private sector including Non-Governmental Organizations that are not covered by the Government's pension scheme. It is a scheme instituted for the protection of employees against the uncertainties of social and economic life.

## The AAH Challenge

Throwing light on the organization's Internet requirements Ms Emily Nsitta iWayAfrica's account manager for Action Africa Help said, "My client was frustrated, the link was very slow even with one person on the network. We needed a solution that would help us tell for sure what was eating up the bandwidth. Moreover, Action Africa Help did not have any kind of firewall on their Local Area Network perimeter and any outsider could easily tap onto the internet connection."

To put the requirement in a nutshell, what Action Africa Help needed was a single box solution that would offer an insight into all activity on the Local Area Network and give capability to manage it.

## Need for Internet Traffic Control and Filtering

In the absence of a Web content and Application filtering solution, several if not all employee computers pulled down unnecessary application updates during peak working hours. There was also frequent access to websites that were irrelevant to our day to day activities. This ate up a major chunk of the precious bandwidth that powered the organization's critical applications. Hence there was a need to monitor Internet access which called for a content filtering solution that could audit data for users' online behaviour. Redistribution of bandwidth amongst the guest and corporate networks was also essential as bandwidth requirement differed between networks. The organization sought for an Internet Filtering solution in the pursuit of increasing productivity and optimizing resources. In this way, it would best serve the purpose of the company's bottom line. "We needed a solution that would enable us have an insight into our network and thus prevent un-resourceful bandwidth usage. Network specific bandwidth assignment also needed to be put in place" adds Mr. Paul Cankwo--Procurement Officer at Action Africa Help.

## Business Continuity Concerns

One major issue was the speed of the link. Opening our email took minutes and I was very concerned as this was affecting productivity and business continuity. "We cannot work without our email." says Mr Paul Cankwo. We were aware that we needed to increase the speed of our link but what was most important was to make sure that the bandwidth given to us was being used productively. Web content and Application filtering was a major grey area for Action Africa Help.

*"Our day to day activities were being hindered by the speed of the internet link. We needed a robust tool that would offer an insight into all activity on the Local Area Network and give capability to manage it."*

**Mr. Paul Cankwo,**  
Procurement officer,  
Action Africa Help.

## iWayAfrica's Firewall7 Solution

After sieving the market for the correct solution, Action Africa Help purchased One (1) Firewall7 box from iWayAfrica(U) Ltd which was deployed on the LAN perimeter at their Headquarters in Kampala. The business benefits were as follows:

### Effective Filtering

The Web is a critical research resource for the employees of Action Africa Help. While trusting its employees to judiciously balance their use of the Internet for work, the organization however recognized its responsibility to both ensure the productive use of this valuable resource and to provide a healthy online working environment.

Action Africa Help installed Firewall7 not only to manage and control Internet traffic, but to also save crucial Internet bandwidth for more resourceful applications. Firewall7's granular controls filter out bandwidth-intensive downloads such as torrents and also block any application updates at peak working hours deferring these to evenings and weekends when there is not much activity on the network. This has reduced unproductive burden on the bandwidth and thus ensuring that the employees remain productively focused.

Firewall7 is Open Source and thus its content filtering mechanism allows for on-going proactive modification of the access control rules as we see fit. Moreover, Web filtering and content management could be applied on a per user basis. Thus giving a lot of flexibility to the organization in terms of chalking out the do's and don'ts of the Internet usage.

## Perimeter Protection

iWayAfrica's Firewall7 sits between the AAH network and the internet, it is designed to protect assets and ensure that no private information goes out of the network and no malicious content comes in.

Firewall7 provides a single default gateway to the internet for AAH's Local network.

Below are some vital features:

- Keep machines on the local network anonymous to potential intruders.
- Scans outbound content, e.g., for data leak protection.
- Scans transmitted content for malware before delivery.
- Automatically "recycles" the internet connection whenever the connection terminates
- Accommodates varying electronic security requirements using the IpTables Engine to filter underlying IP address.
- Ensures safe visits to the internet and applications
- Enhanced security for AAH's servers and workstations
- Effective method to keep away hackers
- Gives a feeling of increased security that AAH's electronic data is being protected

"With these features AAH can concentrate on the important work and rest assured that we have their network covered." says Caroline Namuwenje iwayAfrica's technical lead on the imanage suite of products.

*Firewall7's Open Source Web Content filtering technology kept the organization's Internet resources productively focused. Real time per device monitoring gives assurance that the organisation's bandwidth resources are being used productively.*

### To Conclude

Action Africa's Paul Cankwo says, "Firewall7 exceeded our expectations. iwayAfrica has helped Action Africa Help to install a security appliance to enable LAN auditing and effectively filter Internet content and reduce Spam. Identity based bandwidth management has been implemented and this enables us to rest assured that company bandwidth is being used productively "



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