

CASE STUDY

GigaFin Networks Delivers Winning Combination of Security and Price/Performance with the SlimLine™ Firewall Appliance for Online Gaming Applications

Online gaming has become big business. Consulting firm DFC Intelligence estimates that the worldwide online gaming market will grow from US\$4.5 billion in 2006 to more than US\$13 billion by 2012. Growth has been particularly rapid in Southeast Asia where one leading online gaming company already serves over 15 million subscribers. The Company specializes in Massively Multiplayer Online Playing (MMOPG) video games where a few to more than 100 players face off against each other. To support tens of thousands of concurrent players, the Company has built a state-of-the-art data center in Singapore.

BUSINESS CHALLENGE

Customer experience in the online gaming business is a key success factor. Reliability of the network connection is a major part of that experience. A player who reaches the final level of a game, only to get disconnected due to a dropped connection, is an unsatisfied customer. Too many dropped connections and the reputation—and future success—of the gaming company will suffer. This Online Gaming Company's existing solution from a leading network security vendor was allowing an unacceptable number of dropped sessions.

Another concern, like any network, online gaming networks are subject to unauthorized access and distributed denial of service (DDoS) attacks that can overwhelm Web servers with massive numbers of service requests generated by

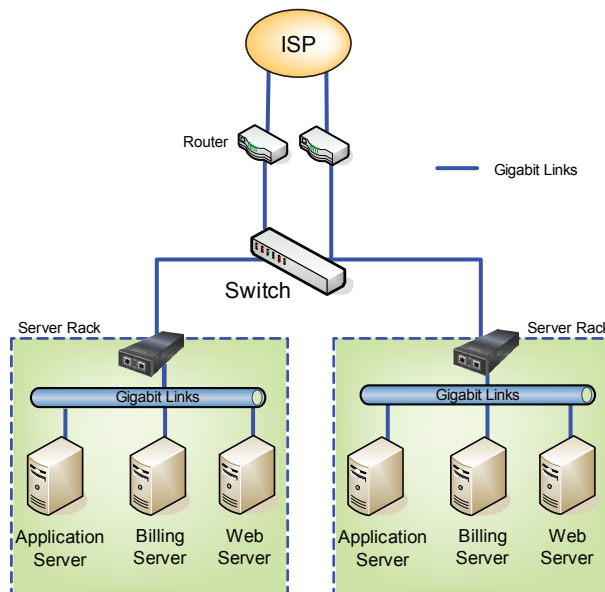
hundreds of PCs under the control of hackers. DDoS attacks can slow or completely shut down online gaming sites if not mitigated. Even a minor performance loss can affect online games—while a total shutdown can have a catastrophic impact on the bottom line.

GIGAFIN SOLUTION

What the Online Gaming Company wanted was a reliable, easy-to-manage, cost-effective solution that would reduce or eliminate dropped connections, provide Gigabit throughput, increase access control between racks and deliver strong protection against DDoS attacks. The Online Gaming Company could re-install and expand its current solution from a leading network security vendor, but that product had already demonstrated its inability to eliminate dropped connections.

A solution from another leading network security vendor consisted of a high-end firewall on a card that could be inserted into a network switch or router, but this alternative was well beyond the Gaming Company's budget.

The Company's IT Manager read an article about GigaFin Networks SlimLine Firewall. The SlimLine Firewall appliance is a compact, in-line appliance that protects critical resources from unauthorized access and increases security. This led to the decision to test and implement GigaFin SlimLine Firewall appliances in the new data center.



CHALLENGE

- Prevent unauthorized access from within the server farms
- Reduce dropped connections
- Mitigate threat of distributed denial of service attacks
- Increase bandwidth, but stay within company budget

SOLUTION

- GigaFin Networks SlimLine Firewall appliance

BENEFITS

- Unbeatable price performance ratio
- Easy deployment and integration with existing network infrastructure
- Optimized power efficiency and compact form factor reduces cost of ownership
- Remote management

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Online Gaming Company

CASE STUDY

Servers within the data center are rack mounted, with ten servers per rack and each rack consisting of applications servers, database servers, billing servers and front-end Web servers. Two SlimLine Firewall appliances were installed in each rack providing redundancy and up to 2Gbps throughput per rack. SlimLine appliances front-end the servers, preventing any incoming traffic identified as DDoS from reaching the servers and impacting performance. The Company can scale the solution by deploying additional SlimLine appliances per rack or by deploying a single SlimLine appliance per server.

BENEFITS

The GigaFin Networks SlimLine Firewall solution provides the Online Gaming Company with exceptional price/performance that cannot be rivaled by any of the leading vendors. Supporting stateful access control at Gigabit throughput while maintaining line quality and low latency, the SlimLine Firewall appliance delivers high-end performance at a cost-effective price.

The SlimLine Firewall appliance has a compact form factor, roughly one-fifth the size of similarly performing appliances, which frees up limited rack space. The SlimLine also uses less than 15Watts, compared to approximately 90Watts for comparable devices, saving energy and reducing cooling costs. Its small footprint and low

power requirements provide the Online Gaming Company an economical alternative, reducing TCO (Total Cost of Ownership) by reducing rack space and electricity cost.

With the successful deployment of the GigaFin Networks SlimLine Firewall appliance in the Singapore data center, the Online Gaming Company is currently considering the solution for other large data centers in Southeast Asia.

ABOUT GIGAFIN NETWORKS

Headquartered in Cupertino, California, GigaFin Networks is the leading provider of cost-effective internal security and traffic management solutions that enable complete control over complex, high-performance networks through increased security and visibility into traffic usage within the network infrastructure. GigaFin Networks SlimLine appliances feature firewall, flow monitoring, traffic management, peer-to-peer application management and Denial-of-Service prevention applications.

GigaFin Networks was founded in December 2002 and has received funding from leading VC firms Sevin Rosen Funds, Worldview Technology Partners and Incubic Venture Capital. Further information on the company can be found at www.gigafin.com.

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