

“Communication service is vital for sales and ensuring loyalty throughout the supply chain. Thanks to Check Point, we have never dropped a connection because of our VPN.”

*Fabrizio Di Narda
Team Manager, IT Security Infrastructure,
Europe, Middle East, and Africa (EMEA)
Electrolux Group*



CUSTOMER NAME

Electrolux Group

INDUSTRY

Manufacturing — Home Appliances

CHECK POINT PRODUCTS

- VPN-1® Power
- VPN-1 SecureClient™
- SmartCenter™

CUSTOMER NEEDS MET

- Secured point-to-point VPN connections
- Enabled IPSec-based secure remote access
- Established centralized remote management of firewalls

VPN-1 Power Eases Electrolux IT Consolidation

ABOUT ELECTROLUX GROUP

For Electrolux Group, trying to be at the center of technological and innovative progress in its industry has always been a source of pride. Over the years, the continuing search for innovation has allowed Electrolux to become the leader in the international market for kitchen appliances, housecleaning solutions, and gardening equipment. Every year, consumers from more than 150 countries purchase over 55 million products from Electrolux. Its well-known brands for home and professional applications include AEG, Electrolux, Eureka, Frigidaire, Husqvana, and Zanussi. In 2006, Electrolux had sales of 104 billion Swedish Kronor (U.S. \$15.9 billion) and 59,500 employees.

THE ELECTROLUX CHALLENGE

Since the 1990s, Electrolux has gone through a period of growth and acquisitions, which has led to a long process of reorganization. For the IT organization, this has meant consolidating infrastructure, concentrating resources into a few data centers, and placing increased importance on connections between those data centers, business offices, and production plants. Moreover, connections with the server farms remaining at the local sites have been just as important. Today, Electrolux has approximately 600 UNIX and Windows servers and about 70 AS/400 systems in Europe, as well as a mainframe.

Over time—especially following acquisitions—various problems have occurred due to the integration of disparate information systems. VPNs had to be established to link different equipment and operating environments while maintaining their ability to be remotely managed.

Beginning in 2005, Electrolux sped up the process to optimize its infrastructure and solve the problems of managing such a widely distributed system. According to company plans, during the following three to four years, all of the Electrolux infrastructure would be consolidated into three major data centers around the world: one in the United States, one in Asia, and one in Europe—Pordenone, Italy, to be specific. Simultaneously, Electrolux created a new centralized IT group to service the corporation around the globe while still allowing each data center to manage local operations.



www.electrolux.com

THE CHECK POINT SOLUTION

Since 1995, Electrolux has been using Check Point solutions to protect its Internet access gateways and communications between different business units. “Check Point has supported this multinational corporation as it has grown, easing the integration of regional sites into the corporate network,” says Fabrizio Di Narda, Electrolux team manager for IT Infrastructure Security in EMEA. “Over time, installation of Check Point VPNs increased as we reconfigured the European infrastructure into three data centers—in Pordenone, Nuremburg, and Stockholm—and it became necessary to ensure connectivity with outlying offices.”

Electrolux adopted Check Point VPN-1® Power™ and VPN-1 SecureClient™ to secure point-to-point links and to enable IPSec-based remote access. Meanwhile, centralized remote management was established with SmartCenter™, which is used primarily to manage firewalls at the European level, enabling maintenance of a unified, homogeneous policy across the continent.

THE BENEFITS OF CHECK POINT SECURITY

In the diverse environment that Electrolux works in, the fact that VPN-1 Power is platform neutral assumes special importance. “Different sites have different capabilities, but being able to operate on the same software—even if in diverse operating environments—significantly simplifies operations,” Di Narda says. In addition, he emphasizes that numerous installations have been made and how the flexibility of Check Point solutions has enabled the IT organization to deal with a broad range of scenarios. “In addition to internal connections, we have to manage links with partners—including 3,000 spare part stores in Italy alone. And we often have to deal with other vendor systems or with outsourced solutions. Thanks to Check Point, we have never had any problems setting up a VPN. And we have never dropped a connection because of a VPN problem.”

This is a fundamental service for Electrolux, according to Di Narda. “The logistics and management of our supply chain is critical, and this communication service is vital for sales and ensuring loyalty throughout the supply chain,” he says.

The Electrolux IT organization also highly values Check Point centralized management capabilities. “Centralized administration allows us to distribute policies from a single point, easing standardization and administration of the systems,” Di Narda says.

THE FUTURE OF ELECTROLUX

The forecast is for growth at the Pordenone data center, which will become the sole data center for all of Electrolux EMEA in 2008. But new challenges are also anticipated. Di Narda is planning to consolidate the administration for all of Electrolux EMEA’s firewalls and VPNs. “We hope to manage everything with Check Point Provider-1®, centralizing the administration of all policies and rules—and even logs,” he says. “For this, we are also evaluating Check Point Eventia™ Analyzer™, because it is very convenient for managing enormous amounts of log data.” Eventia Analyzer provides real-time event correlation to prioritize security events and identify critical threats to the network.

“The consolidation will have to be gradual and will follow the normal life cycle of infrastructure migration,” Di Narda says. “For this reason, it will be important to choose a solution that enables us to migrate to a centralized infrastructure, with minimal disruption to personnel and existing processes.”

Last but not least, Electrolux is looking at Check Point Connectra™ and SSL Network Extender™ to enhance its secure remote access capabilities. “Nowadays, most VPNs are site-to-site, but we would like to increase our flexibility for remote access by offering clientless VPNs,” Di Narda concludes.

CONTACT CHECK POINT

Worldwide Headquarters

5 Ha' Solelim Street, Tel Aviv 67897, Israel | Tel: 972-3-753-4555 | Fax: 972-3-624-1100 | Email: info@checkpoint.com

U.S. Headquarters

800 Bridge Parkway, Redwood City, CA 94065 | Tel: 800-429-4391; 650-628-2000 | Fax: 650-654-4233 | www.checkpoint.com