

PLUGGING THE WEAK POINT

❖ Trend Micro Network VirusWall 2500

What it does:

The Trend Micro Network VirusWall 2500 is a device that can detect vulnerabilities in the network and to carry out measures to ensure its confidentiality and security.

What it's good for:

Its two-in-one nature, incorporating an anti-virus engine as well as a vulnerability assessment tool, saves time, space and hassle.

Less suited to:

Non-Microsoft-based environments won't gain from its security policy enforcement function.

Features:

The Trend Micro Network VirusWall 2500 security policy enforcement function can block non-compliant devices, by making sure that all machines have current anti-virus and critical Microsoft patches installed before they access the network.

The vulnerability assessment function allows system administrators to assess network security risks, as well as equip administrators with tools to close gaps.

In addition, the Network Outbreak monitor and Network Outbreak prevention provides real-time detection of unusual behaviour at the network layer and is able to alert administrators about suspicious activity. In addition, they help prevent worm or virus attacks by restricting



user-specified IP addresses, ports, protocols, file-type extensions and file transfers.

To manage the Trend Micro Network VirusWall 2500 effectively, you will need to install the Trend Micro Control Manager (TMCM) software that comes with the package.

Installation of the TMCM software is hassle-free thanks to its installation wizard and well-documented installation manual. For the hardware, the initial configuration is best carried out through the serial console.

For those with a DHCP server in your network, you may be pleased to find that the Network VirusWall 2500 allows its IP address to be assigned through DHCP.

Deployment of the Network VirusWall 2500 in a VLAN environment can also be easily done through its available VLAN configuration settings.

There are a total of four operational modes for you to choose from, with two of them providing a measure of redundancy.

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Management

Managing the Network VirusWall 2500 is easy with the help of the TCMCM software. The management functions provided by the TCMCM software are broadly classified into four categories, namely Services, Report, Administration and Products. Each of the categories is further divided according to the various features provided. Finding your way through the GUI shouldn't be a problem as long as you are not overwhelmed by the amount of information presented.

To keep your Network VirusWall 2500 up-to-date, you have the choice of downloading the newest pattern files manually or through scheduled downloads. In addition to the pattern files, you can also choose to download updates for the Engines and Product Programs. A point to note is that updates that are downloaded will not be deployed to the appliance immediately unless you have configured the deployment policy to do so.

AT A GLANCE

- » Dual CPU 800MHz
- » 1GB RAM
- » Five 10/100/1000 Mbps copper Ethernet ports
- » US\$8495 (check for promotions in your own area)

Alerts

There are six notification methods available. Apart from the normal emailing, paging, windows event logging and SNMP trap method, it allows notification through MSN messaging and application triggering. Trend Micro has also taken the initiative to list all the possible alerts and provide administrators with the ability to specify recipients for each individual alerts.

However, going through the list and defining the recipients for each and every single one of the alerts may take quite a while. This might become a hassle when the same group of people needs to be informed of all alerts. A default group of recipients for all alerts would be more welcome.

One unique feature of the Trend Micro Network VirusWall 2500 is its two-in-one nature: It incorporates an antivirus engine as well as a vulnerability assessment tool. As the Network VirusWall 2500 checks only for vulnerabilities in Microsoft products, companies that use products from Microsoft extensively might find it to be useful.

In addition, the user interface is pretty user friendly, as it allows users to frequently use the point and click method to set its policies and configures the Network Outbreak Monitor.

Compared to other firewall or anti-virus products in the market, Trend Micro Network VirusWall 2500 can be considered a worthy competitor. ■

Test and report by the Republic Polytechnic team