

## ENABLING A MOBILE WORKFORCE

The Financial Times (FT) is one of the world's leading business news and information organisations, recognised internationally for its authority, integrity and accuracy. The paper was founded in 1888 and is published daily. It focuses on providing extensive finance and business news, commentaries and analysis. The FT has a combined print and online average daily readership of 2.1 million people worldwide. It is published six days a week and printed in 20 cities worldwide.

### The challenge

Improve local internet and VPN (Virtual Private Network) connections in order to recover and increase high levels of employee productivity in the workplace.

The FT was feeling the effects of the growing consumerisation of IT trend amongst its workforce. Increasingly, employees were asking to connect their smartphones and tablet devices to the network to enable them to work wirelessly and in a secure manner. In addition, as the business continued to grow and more offices were springing up across the world, the increasing number of international locations connecting to the original headquarters in London and New York were putting a strain on the network's bandwidth. This was resulting in a very slow, but costly, internet connection. This meant that the company was spending a lot of money on a service that was not only proving to be inefficient, but actually hampering productivity on a daily basis. As well as the desire for more mobility with their smartphones and tablets, employees were getting frustrated that they weren't able to work in the office as efficiently as they could at home where they had strong, fast internet connections.

Keen to address these problems quickly, the FT turned to its trusted solution provider, SecureData, the independent IT security integrator, a company whose expertise it had sought for a decade. The issue was discussed at the FT's quarterly exec review meeting where it would raise current business challenges with SecureData for the company to provide advice and consultancy on suitable solutions. SecureData's work for the FT in the past included managing the company's premise infrastructure, conducting WAN exploration, and providing it with a remote branch office solution.



## CASE STUDY

## The solution

After reviewing the current business challenge, it was agreed that the solution implemented would need an aggressive roll out due to pressure from users demanding a workable, quick solution. As a result, the solutions were rolled out extremely rapidly in a matter of weeks.

Firstly, SecureData selected and deployed Aruba Networks to enable local internet connection. This meant that each remote FT site would be connected to the internet directly, rather than using a private network to head office. This was a more cost-effective solution and would result in faster and higher quality connections for the local offices.

Secondly, Aruba Networks set up a Virtual Private Network (VPN) in two regional sites - the New York and London offices - allowing employees to easily connect to the resources at head office.

A cloud-based web filtering solution was also provided by Aruba Networks to control what websites employees visit when they access the internet locally, to make sure they remain in line with the FT's global security policy.



## Business benefits

The solutions deployed by SecureData enable all FT employees to work wirelessly. They can now connect their smartphone devices and tablets in a secure, structured way to the network and have access to all the resources they should need from head office. This gives employees the flexibility to work remotely, which has improved employees productivity as well as their working life.

The FT has also embraced the onslaught of mobile devices by launching its own app edition of the paper for the iPad and iPhone, enabling readers to keep up to date with the latest news while on the go.

With internet traffic now staying local, speeds have improved dramatically and employees no longer feel that their connections at home are better than in the office. Local internet access is also much cheaper, so the business can reap the financial benefits of this. In addition, the FT no longer has to upgrade its very expensive WAN connections as quickly as it used to, so further cost savings have been made.

“Meeting the needs of our large, global workforce by supporting mobility and enabling the use of smartphones and tablet devices was paramount for us. It was also very important that this was done quickly and efficiently so we were keen to work with SecureData whose recommendations and solutions we value and whom we trust to deliver. We have seen significant improvements following the solution implementations and its incredible value to our employees”.

Alison Fitzgerald, CIO, Financial Times

“The FT experienced a challenge that a lot of companies are currently facing – a growing demand from employees to be able to work from home as they do the office. They want resilient, fast internet connections and they want to be able to work remotely with their smartphones and tablet devices. Companies need to embrace this quickly and securely, it’s not something that’s going to go away”.

Etienne Greeff, professional services director for SecureData Europe

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Industry: Financial services
- The Challenge: Improve local internet connections in order to recover and increase high levels of employee productivity in the workplace
- The Solution: Deployment of Aruba Networks enabling local internet connections and the set up of VPN’s in London and New York headquarters
- Benefits:
  1. Easy access to company resources
  2. Internet speeds have dramatically improved
  3. Allows employees to connect smartphone and tablet devices to the network
  4. Cheaper local internet access saving FT time and money upgrading expensive wider area network connections
  5. Simplified support with one point of contact for all problems
  6. Easier audit compliance

## SOLUTION COMPONENTS

Existing solutions:

- Aruba Networks enabling local internet connections and access to VPN connections from London and New York offices
- Aruna Networks web based filtering solution controlling employee website tracking on local area networks