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Bloomsbury Publishing's remote-access preparations avoid turning a drama into a crisis

30 June 2011 - Bloomsbury Publishing, the publisher of some of world's best-selling books has deployed a WatchGuard SSL VPN with two-factor authentication (2FA) to provide highly secure and flexible remote access to its corporate networks, applications, data and email. Installed in time for last year's heavy pre-Christmas snowfalls and tube strikes, Bloomsbury's well planned preparations to make sure all of its 300 plus UK staff could work from home really paid off.

Employees not able to get into the office were able to securely access their office PC or Mac desktops and files from a home computer, corporate lap or even an internet café. And to ensure they were identified and authenticated, a one-time password was sent by an SMS text message to their mobile phone every time they logged in.

"The WatchGuard SSL VPN 100 appliance is part of a corporate secure remote working strategy; so even with heavy snowfalls and disruption to transport, it means that all of our staff from PAs to senior managers, are able to stay productive without compromising security," said Bloomsbury IT manager, Rajan Pandya. "The WatchGuard SSL VPN combined with mobile 2FA is a great combination requiring minimum administration."

In addition to providing emergency support for staff during periods of travel chaos, the WatchGuard solution also supports flexible remote and home working during the rest of the year. "Many of our staff travel around the world and some simply need the ability to access information and applications out of office hours," said Rajan Pandya. "As well as increasing productivity it provides a better work / life balance."

The WatchGuard SSL appliance delivers affordable, easy-to-use, secure remote access, providing reliable client or clientless connectivity to web-based resources as well as corporate data and applications. In addition to supporting a wide range of authentication

options, the WatchGuard SSL has detailed remote logging and reporting capabilities along with endpoint integrity checking to ensure connecting devices have firewall protection and up to date anti-virus definitions.

And with desktop sharing that also allows the Bloomsbury IT team to fix remote computer problems; users can stay productive from anywhere, anytime.

“More and more companies are taking measures to make sure their staff remain productive in the face of snow-bound winters and frequent travel chaos,” says Jamie Pearce, UK sales manager at WatchGuard. “Our SSL solutions support a wide range of authentication options including SMS text to mobile that make it cost effective to roll out remote access to all employees rather than just senior executives and road warriors. Secure remote access also helps companies to be more flexible and productive while helping to support a better work/life balance regardless of the weather.”

The remote access solution at Bloomsbury was supplied by WatchGuard reseller BVR that has been providing IT systems and support to Bloomsbury for over 15 years.

About WatchGuard Technologies, Inc.

Since 1996, WatchGuard® Technologies, Inc. has been the advanced technology leader of network security solutions, providing mission-critical security to hundreds of thousands of businesses worldwide. The WatchGuard family of wired and wireless unified threat management appliances and WatchGuard SSL VPN remote access solutions provide extensible network security, unparalleled network visibility, management and control. WatchGuard products are backed by WatchGuard LiveSecurity® Service, an innovative support, maintenance, and education program. WatchGuard is headquartered in Seattle and has offices serving North America, Europe, Asia Pacific, and Latin America. To learn more, visit <http://www.watchguard.com/>.

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