

An Elegant Firewall for a Dangerous Mission

Controlling access to mission-critical systems is the goal of every organization. But for some, including one for the world's largest chemical companies, the stakes can be very high indeed. According to the company's Chief Security Officer (CSO), a firewall breach can compromise finely tuned process systems, impacting business and potentially "threatening employee safety and the environment."

After September 11th 2001, one of the company's top priorities was to ensure that its 200 plus high-and medium-risk manufacturing process sites were guarded by the most compelling firewall solution available. Lacking the security expertise in-house and believing this is one of the situations that warrant seeking expertise from the outside, the CSO went looking for help. What he found was a unique solution from Managed Security Service Provider E-DMZ Security. According to this CSO, what makes e-DMZ's approach so compelling is the rich environment e-DMZ Security wraps around firewalls, "the way they architected the entire security solution."

THE DIFFERENCE IS THE ENVIRONMENT

Foremost, all communications and control are encrypted, ensuring security is tight; and there are

authorization and audit trails, so every change, no matter how small, is logged, approved and documented.

And unlike other offerings, e-DMZ had already done the work needed for centralizing firewall management and control of the chemical giant's 200+ distributed sites – all of which have firewalls unique to their process requirements. The sites also have process engineers with little or no firewall expertise. Fortunately, e-DMZ's solution was designed to be distributed under just such conditions, making implementations cost-effective and timely.

Another compelling feature is the ability to co-manage. For safety and security reasons, it's essential that process engineers be able to make changes without being inhibited by the firewall.

"We had to ensure the engineers who own those processes would have access whenever they needed it and e-DMZ provided the flexibility without compromising the audit trail," reports the CSO.

"e-DMZ came in with the technology we needed already wrapped around the firewall; it is, quite simply, elegant."