

Firewall Analyzer enables Professional Engineers Ontario gain control of Bandwidth usage

Case Study: Statutory Organization

“ I am now able to identify Internet traffic anomalies quickly and regain control of my Internet bandwidth by blocking offending IPs when necessary. ”

Lincoln A. Mason,
Network Administrator,
Professional Engineers Ontario

Institution	: Professional Engineers Ontario
Industry	: Statutory Organization
Location	: Toronto, Ontario, Canada

About Professional Engineers Ontario

The Association of Professional Engineers of Ontario (PEO) is a not-for-profit statutory licensing organization that was founded in 1922 under the Professional Engineers Act to regulate the practice of professional engineering in the Province of Ontario, Canada. PEO regulates the actions and conduct of its various License and Certificate of Authorization holders in order that the public interest may be served and protected.

Business Challenge

Professional Engineers Ontario is a huge organization with tens of thousands of members. Because of the large number of members, its day-to-day activity depends on the effective usage of the internet bandwidth. PEO faced the uphill task of ensuring judicious usage of Internet Bandwidth. To achieve this, they had to ensure that the Internet traffic gets monitored constantly and non-business usage gets curtailed. Lincoln A. Mason, Network Administrator, PEO stated the challenge as, “**Before, I had no simple method of identifying traffic patterns.**” Analyzing the traffic pattern manually is a cumbersome task. Browsing through the raw logs from the Firewall to find out the bandwidth usage is tedious and inefficient. The other challenge was monitoring the traffic pattern in real-time. The tools available in the market were pretty hard to set up, were not all that easy to use, and very expensive. Lincoln put it as, “**Tools I tried required a huge effort to capture and analyze traffic.**”

“ With close to 70,000 membership base, internet bandwidth usage is critical to the organization's function. I needed a product that is easy to setup, easy to use and affordable. Firewall Analyzer meets and surpasses all these requirements. ”

Lincoln A. Mason,
Network Administrator,
Information & Technology Services,
Professional Engineers Ontario.



Professional Engineers
Ontario

ManageEngine's Solution

ManageEngine offered Firewall Analyzer, a perfect solution to the challenges faced by PEO. The solution generates pre-built, category wise reports, which helps PEO to visualize the bandwidth usage. To add extra edge to the reports, there are live reports. The live reports display the real-time bandwidth usage. It enables PEO with graphical reports to find out the following category wise bandwidth consumption: top users, top protocols, and top services. It offers PEO with the business and non-business hours usage trend information. The solution is inexpensive and easy to use. Lincoln acknowledged the solution as, **"With close to 70,000-membership base, internet bandwidth usage is critical to the organization's function. I needed a product that is easy to setup, easy to use and affordable. Firewall Analyzer meet and surpass all these requirements."** With inputs like real time bandwidth usage monitoring, usage trend during business hours and getting alerted by the anomaly in the trend, PEO is at ease in managing the bandwidth usage to optimum.

An important aspect of Firewall analyzer that impressed PEO was, its full support for Cisco firewall, which was the company's primary firewall device. It is easy to deploy and within five minutes from installation, it can start rolling out reports. **"Deployment was quite simple."** Lincoln added further. Another important feature of the application is vital security reports indicating attacks, viruses, failed log-on, and denied events.

Business Benefits

The Firewall Analyzer solution saved the PEO Network IT staff from the perils of manually examining the raw logs to capture the bandwidth usage. Lincoln expressed the benefits of the solution as, **"With Firewall Analyzer there is no requirement to read through thousands of lines of raw data all the captured data is displayed in easy-to-read GUI."** The Administrator was able to easily identify the behavior pattern of bandwidth usage and the root cause responsible for the sudden change in behavior. Lincoln expresses the impact of the solution as, **"I am now able to identify internet traffic anomalies quickly and regain control of my internet bandwidth by blocking offending IPs when necessary."**

Challenges

- *Manual log analysis is tedious*
- *Monitoring traffic pattern in real-time is essential*
- *Solutions available in the market are expensive*

Solutions

- *Automated log analysis*
- *Real-time log collection and monitoring*
- *Inexpensive and easy to set up solution*

Benefits

- *Quick and easy identification of the Internet traffic patterns and anomaly*
- *Gaining control of Internet Bandwidth usage of the enterprise*
- *Reducing the Internet Bandwidth expenditure by controlling usage*

Result

In PEO, huge amount of log data is analyzed instantly and without manual intervention. This helped in analyzing the bandwidth usage trend. The IT administration staff are able to monitor the traffic pattern in real-time. They are able to quickly identify the non-business related traffic. They could control the bandwidth by blocking offending IPs or filtering the unwanted traffic. Lincoln expresses the results of deploying the solution as, "I am now able to filter out or block non-business related traffic."

The PEO Administrator's total control led to optimum usage of bandwidth and in turn led to the reduction in Internet bandwidth expenditure.

About ManageEngine

ManageEngine provides a suite of powerful Enterprise Management products, including network utilization, performance, security, helpdesk management, email archive management, and real time QoS management among others, aimed at making your business more effective and efficient. With a wide array of products that can be easily integrated, enterprise wide optimization is allowed. Complementary products provide users with the ability to choose and incorporate features that they need a la' carte.

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About Firewall Analyzer

Firewall Analyzer is a web based, agent-less, firewall log analysis and reporting software that monitors, collects, analyses, archives, and generates reports on enterprise-wide Firewalls, VPNs, IDS, and Proxy servers. It will help network security administrators & Managed Security Service Providers (MSSPs) to monitor bandwidth usage, detect intrusions, anomaly behaviors, audit traffic, and monitor employee web usage activities efficiently.