



SECURE TRANSACTIONS BETWEEN RETAIL STORES AND HEADQUARTERS



MIM is the French subsidiary of New Look Group PLC, the UK-headquartered fashion retailer. MIM opened its first store in 1976. Today, MIM operates 255 stores throughout France, and has prospered by offering affordable fashion clothing for young women.

With Philippe LAFON
IT DIRECTOR

MIM MIGRATES FROM ISDN TO ADSL UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS ONLY

MIM's system was based on ISDN for communication between retail outlets and headquarters. The server communicated with each store daily to collect earnings and to send price updates. Exchanges over ISDN were satisfactory until three years ago when new requirements came to light.

It was determined that an ADSL connection would enable MIM to transfer larger data files more quickly. In addition, ADSL would open up all kinds of new possibilities. For example, building an intranet to manage operations between Headquarters and Stores with services such as online order management, real-time customer counting, sales, stocks and management of store employees. MIM's suppliers would also be able to enhance service offerings.

Anti-theft devices could be remotely managed for tuning and preventative maintenance of antennae. Air conditioning could be controlled via the internet. Even the transmission of music to the stores could be managed centrally and remotely.

Mr LAFON was all for the technological change, but only under certain circumstances.

"It was clear that the internet would

open up a lot of possibilities for us, but my first reaction was to proceed with caution. I would agree to the solution only if our technical requirements could be fully met.

We needed filtering, we needed protection, and we needed to manage security ourselves. I did not want to depend on an internet access provider's backbone. I did not want an external supplier managing our security."



One of the aspects that pleased us most about NETASQ's appliances was the fact that we could automate the installation and maintenance processes ."

Philippe LAFON



APPLIANCES:

- Headquarters :
1 x F200, 1 x F500
 - Stores :
150 x F25
- Projected : 300 x F25 end 2008

A PRIME FEATURE - EASY INSTALLATION AND MANAGEMENT

Mr LAFON went on:

"We were looking for a system that would enable us to pre-configure the appliance, connect remotely, modify filter rules, add and delete users, and do all of this as quickly and as simply as possible."



When we examined NETASQ's solutions with our partner S2MI, we quickly realized that we could fully manage the network security ourselves, and at the same time, ensure our communications were fully protected ."

Philippe LAFON

Each time MIM opens a new store, there is a lot to do.

Mr. LAFON's team of technicians are in charge of building the infrastructure for the Store

"We deliver the computer (which serves as the cash register), the cash drawer, the printer, the network, the modems and the security appliance. We have simplified the procedure by rendering all of the components hassle free," explained Mr. LAFON., "When our technicians arrive at a store, they need only enter the login, the password and the public IP. The VPN is set up in advance."

NETASQ's appliances require only a routine installation, comparable to installing a printer or a PC.



Also, when MIM compared NETASQ's solutions to those of other vendors, what made the difference was the centralized administration console, the simplicity of set-up, and the possibility of mastering the technology quickly and efficiently.



NETASQ above all offered a superior technical solution to a complex technical problem. "

Philippe LAFON

NETWORK SECURITY IS CONTINUALLY UPGRADED TO THE LATEST STANDARDS

NETASQ appliances are continually upgraded.

"When you purchase this type of equipment from a vendor, you need to ensure that versions are updated regularly to counter ever-increasing threats. NETASQ is a company made up of highly

skilled technical specialists who are quick to respond to security threats. In addition," added Mr LAFON, "NETASQ takes into account feedback from end-users and partners."

MIM is currently upgrading to a new version so they are using the administration consoles daily. MIM is also in the process of optimizing remote administration on the network with an SSH console.

"NETASQ represents a living, breathing appliance. Our technicians are interested in security so we are regularly putting in place new modules," stated Mr. LAFON.

VISIBLE CLIENT BENEFITS

- Simple and automated installation and maintenance,
- Centralized administration and reporting,
- Continually upgraded solutions.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

S2MI

MIM relied heavily on S2MI, its network integration partner, when making the decision to migrate to ADSL. S2MI specified a number of solutions that were especially adapted to MIM's requirements. S2MI has accompanied MIM throughout all of the phases of the project, from prototyping, testing and analyzing, to delivery, integration, training and repairs.



About NETASQ

NETASQ was established in 1998 and is one of the leading European network security vendors with more than 35,000 appliances sold to date. It develops innovative solutions aimed at protecting its customers' data, communications and infrastructure against computing threats that keep increasing in number while growing more dangerous and more diverse.

NETASQ is best known for designing and building the NETASQ UTM, a range of "all-in-one" Network Security appliances that combine multiple security features in one device. Features include intrusion prevention, firewall, antivirus, antispymware, antispam, content filtering, VPN access and NETASQ SEISMO for improved real-time vulnerability detection and risk management. The foundation of the software architecture on these appliances is the unique, multi-patented ASQ (Active Security Qualification) operating system that fully addresses the requirement for "zero day" proactive security.

To help companies fight the spam epidemic while ensuring that no valid e-mail is ever lost in the process, NETASQ MFILTRO mail security appliances combine antispam filtering features with antivirus and antispymware modules, and provide a quarantine option so that every employee controls what happens with mail identified as spam.

NETASQ relies on a network of over 300 partners who market solutions in over 30 countries throughout Europe, the Middle East, Northern Africa and Asia.