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Internet VPN and Integrated Access enhance Equant's IP services portfolio

By Will Kelly

As corporations work to ensure that their critical internal communications are kept private and secure while permitting information to flow across the organization and to strategic business partners, reliable virtual private networking can provide a unified secure connection for intranet, extranet, and Internet access. Indeed, it was designed that way: "Equant developed Internet VPN in response to the needs of existing customers," says Dominique le Beuz, Head of the Equant Internet Direct product line.

The solution bundles two of Equant's proven core products to provide a secure Internet-based VPN solution for worldwide organizations:

- Equant IPSec provides enhanced security via tunneling and encryption.
- Equant Internet Direct provides a dedicated high-quality connection to the public Internet for Web access, extranets, email, and other applications.

As an Internet-based VPN, Equant's Internet VPN is a solution for secure Internet communications for corporate data via Equant Internet Direct secured with IPSec encryption. When implemented as an extension to Equant IP VPN, Internet VPN in combination with Equant's Integrated Access is an excellent extranet platform on which to conduct communications and transactions with business partners. Through the extranet you can conduct occasional and dynamic business relationships with third-party partners.

Winning combination for virtual private networking

Equant's Internet VPN solution has a rich feature set that includes:

Internet access with Equant Internet Direct. Internet Direct is the Internet access component of the Equant Internet VPN offering. It provides:

- Global coverage available in more than 100 countries including the Americas, Europe, and the Asia-Pacific region
- Reliable performance with high-speed access and global routing, including extensive public and private peering for high performance with minimal delay
- Multiple access options including native IP, Frame Relay, and ATM access with throughput speeds of 155 Mbps in various port configurations. Connectivity options include single-homed and multi-homed with primary and backup.
- Domain Name Registration as well as primary and/or secondary

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Domain Name Service (DNS)

- IP address allocation with or without Network Access Translation functionality
- Available UseNet and News Feed service
- A wide range of Cisco router support with flexible LAN and WAN port options
- Single-vendor convenience of all network facilities, networking management, and network monitoring
- Real-time online statistical reporting available through a user-friendly Web interface secured with a user name and password
- Available special pricing plans available including Content Providers and usage-based billing (available upon request)
- In-country help desks around the world supporting your remote offices.

Network security with Equant IPSec. Equant IPSec is a security solution providing tunneling and encryption for enhanced data security. As part of Equant's Internet VPN, solution Equant IPSec provides security for network communications between corporate offices and business partners. It is based on the IPSec standard as defined by the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF).

Equant IPSec offers multiple levels of security for the diverse needs of intranet and extranet environments. These security levels permit only pre-approved users to access network resources protected by Equant IPSec. For example, you can set a level of security that enables only internal employees to access your corporate intranet. Alternatively, another level could be established for your extranet, therefore permitting access for employees and approved corporate partners.

Features of Equant IPSec include

- Packet-by-packet connectionless orientation
- Coverage of the complete encryption spectrum
- Dedicated IPSec gateways (Nortel Contivity)
- Strong confidentiality
- Integration with Internet Direct as the Internet VPN
- Certificate-based implementation audited externally by Deloitte & Touche
- 24x7 management, monitoring, and support available worldwide
- Web-based reporting tool.

The technical features of Equant IPSec include

- Support for Nortel Contivity 600, 1600, 2600, and 4600
- LAN environments include Ethernet and Fast Ethernet, IP
- DES and 3DES encryption algorithms
- Authentication via Equant Digital Certificates
- Private addressing, NAT
- Encryption/activation based on IP addresses
- Thirty to 5000 tunnels
- 5Mbps to 85Mbps throughput
- Hot resiliency
- CoS compatibility

Having Equant manage your secure VPN with Equant IPSec means you can

focus on your core business with peace of mind that your data communications are secure.

Managed router compatibility. Equant's Internet VPN is compatible with the Nortel Networks Contivity family of VPN switches that provide hardware-based security solutions from small office to corporate headquarters-sized sites. The Equant IPSec service providing encryption and tunneling for the Internet VPN is based upon the Contivity platform.

The Nortel Contivity box management is done via inbound management by creating a tunnel from the IPSec box to the NMC management system. Inbound management can be either on-net using Equant Internet Direct Service, or off-net using a third-party provider.

Customer benefits

Equant is a worldwide provider and global market leader in VPN services with nearly 10,000 ports in about 140 countries to over 400 customers. Equant's reach is further augmented by multiple peering arrangements with key providers across the globe. This means that your corporate offices around the world can get reliable VPN-based Internet connectivity from a single provider, rather than from multiple vendors who may not be able to provide consistent connectivity for all your worldwide facilities.

Equant's own staff provides 24x7 network management ensuring end-to-end service across the globe. Locally, Equant staff responds to customer service calls and other issues, not a third-party contractor servicing the region. "In-country service and support is one of our strengths," says leBeuz. "We have staff in over 140 countries and major network management centers in central locations to reroute traffic as necessary. Service and support is a real differentiator for Equant."

Integrated Access in brief

Integrated Access combines Equant IP VPN and Equant Internet Direct, enabling the integration of intranet (IP VPN) and Internet traffic (Internet Direct) onto one VPN port.

Integrated Access is an ideal solution for an organization seeking intranet and Internet access to conduct internal communications via a corporate intranet, browse the Web, and access Internet-based applications. It offers

- the security of a private corporate network balanced against reliable access to the public Internet
- cost savings realized by integrated internal and external Internet traffic
- security for your important data and Internet communications.

Integrated Access is another enhancement to the Equant IP portfolio suited for Equant IP VPN customers or in combination with the Internet VPN and Equant IP VPN. Like the rest of the Equant IP portfolio, it is backed by in-country Equant staff who provide support to ensure reliable connectivity both to the Internet and the customer's intranet.

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