

PortWise Enables Mobile Office Connectivity at Investor

PortWise’s Secure Socket Layer (SSL) Virtual Private Network (VPN) solution has given Investor a secure, easily available and scaleable platform for remote access, enabling the company to deliver secure, remote access to its distributed workforce

As enterprises expand their data networks to achieve business goals, providing mobile workers, remote offices and business partners real-time access to centralised corporate applications and data is no longer an option-it is a necessity. As enterprise networks expand and the number of endpoints grows exponentially, IT managers must balance the cost of expansion against the security, reliability, and scalability of the solution. Taking all of these factors into account, forward thinking companies are investing in Secure Socket Layer (SSL) Virtual Private Networks (VPN) as the solution of choice to enable secure remote access. Investor is no exception, and has utilized PortWise’s SSL VPN product suite to successfully enable remote access to a broader community of different user types, using different devices, authenticating with different methods and accessing different applications and services.

The Nordic’s Leading Industrial Holding Company

Investor is the largest listed industrial holding company in the Nordic region, and has owned and developed successful companies of differing sizes

for over a century. Long-term, committed and responsible ownership, combined with a unique international network of industrial and financial competence characterize the company’s operations.

Investor is a shareholder in a number of global public companies such as ABB, AstraZeneca, Atlas Copco, Electrolux, Ericsson, Gambro, OM, Saab AB, Scania, SEB and WM-data. The company has a diverse portfolio that includes over 150 new investments and a number of other holdings in the Healthcare, Technology, Engineering and Financial Services sectors.

Investor’s business operations are conducted by five strategically located offices around the world: Amsterdam, Hong Kong, New York, Stockholm and Palo Alto.

Who	Investor, the Nordic’s Leading Industrial Holding Company
What	Investor uses PortWise mVPN and PortWise mID for a global remote access solution
Why	To provide secure access to business critical applications, 24 hours a day – regardless of where the user is
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Increased usability ▶ 24x7 availability across multiple global sites ▶ Single Sign-On

Remote Access Challenges

Investor has a track record of delivering effective service to end-users by utilising leading edge technologies to simplify and streamline its IT operations. It was in this context that the company first began

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David Lindquist
IT Manager

to look into SSL VPN technology to enable secure, remote access for its users. For Investor, this was especially critical as, by the very nature of its business, it is a necessity to provide end-users with secure access to business critical applications, 24 hours a day, regardless of location.

"Our goal was to implement a solution that would enable us to provide totally secure, reliable access for our remote users," said Paul Stellmach, Technology Manager, Investor AB. "It was obvious from the outset that the critical success factors for a remote access solution that suited Investor would be security, availability, flexibility and scalability."

With these criteria in mind, Investor began to evaluate SSL VPN solutions that were in the marketplace, including the PortWise solution. PortWise provides a suite of software components that can handle security authentication, link to business applications and manage access. The software requires no change to the IT environment and operates entirely through Internet standards.

"We recognised that we needed more than most SSL VPN vendors were offering, because we had a very comprehensive set of needs, said David Lindquist, IT Manager, Investor. "We needed a solution that would meet the strongest security requirements and enable us to leverage previous investments, while being easy-to-use."

After a thorough evaluation, Investor chose the PortWise solution. "Only PortWise met these requirements among the products evaluated." David Lindquist.

The PortWise Solution

A Multi-Purpose Authentication Solution

It was a key requirement for Investor was that any remote access solution that it selected would be able to leverage existing investments in network and security infrastructure. The company already had a Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) and a corporate directory in place. Investor also wanted to provide its workforce with more flexible and dynamic methods for gaining access to corporate systems, while maintaining strong authentication methods.

PortWise mID (mobile Identification) is an authentication server that uses several innovative methods for strong user authentication. Depending on the corporate security policies and the parties involved, PortWise can offer four user authentication methods, that are all available on one server. The PortWise mID solution also integrates seamlessly in the enterprise's existing infrastructure and therefore facilitates user management even further.

Investor selected the PortWise mID solution, as it was the only multi-purpose authentication solution on the market, and the only product that could meet their needs.

About PortWise's Products

PortWise mID is an authentication server that uses several innovative methods for strong user authentication, all of which can replace expensive hardware tokens. Depending on the corporate security policies and the parties involved, PortWise mID can offer four user authentication methods, all available on one server. The PortWise mID solution integrates seamlessly in the enterprises' existing infrastructure (e.g. Microsoft Active Directory) and therefore facilitates user management even further.

PortWise mVPN manages secure user access to internal applications using the SSL VPN technology. In addition to http-based applications, PortWise mVPN also enables secure access for thick clients (such as Outlook) without requiring any VPN-client installation. Users can securely connect to web applications, client-server applications, e-mail applications, file servers and much more using an industry standard browser. PortWise mVPN contains a policy engine as well as a Single Sign-On module for seamless user access.

Security

As with many large enterprises today, security is top priority for Investor. Consequently the company was looking for a remote access solution that could meet stringent security requirements, but ensuring that it was still easy for users to connect. Investor particularly wanted to separate access from access decision and authentication, and to ensure that no critical data was stored persistently on the DMZ or on the client.

PortWise mVPN is a combined SSL VPN and Access Management solution. It provides the opportunity to separate out functions from the PortWise mVPN Access Server in the DMZ, and then place them on the PortWise mVPN Management Server on a different network. One of the unique benefits of this approach is that no user information (for single sign on or authentication purposes) is ever stored on the DMZ.

This functionality, along with the other security benefits, prompted Investor to select PortWise.

Investor wanted to incorporate single-sign on functionality to increase the ease of use of the remote access solution.

Policy Management

Investor also wanted to ensure that access to the applications was evaluated based on an active policy management. The company found that, although several SSL VPN vendors provided this functionality it was limited because it was based on users and user groups.

PortWise mVPN Management Server provides advanced policy management with the capability to tailor rules to suit unique enterprise needs. The PortWise mVPN Management Server authorisation model is not a limited user and user group approach.

Only PortWise could meet Investor's dynamic policy needs.

24x7 Availability across Multiple Sites

Investor needed a solution that could be deployed in a multi-site environment, and could ensure that, even in the rare case of a server failure, users could still connect without the loss of production capacity. Since Investor wanted to deploy the solution at different hubs there was a need for the solution to ensure that session information, configuration information and Single Sign-on information always were up to date on every server.

Investor found that the PortWise product suite could enable and guarantee the required availability.

Single- Sign On Functionality

Investor wanted to incorporate single-sign on functionality to increase the ease of use of the remote access solution.

However, the Single Sign-on functionality in PortWise mVPN is not the only method by which Investor has increased usability. PortWise's clientless approach has been very attractive to the workforce, and the fact that PortWise mVPN is traversal to firewalls, proxies and routers. Even though PortWise mVPN is clientless users can still connect to non-web applications as Microsoft Terminal Server.

Benefits

PortWise have shown that SSL VPN technology can bring genuine business benefit by offering a combination of flexibility, security and manageability at an affordable price. It is simple to install – sitting alongside existing systems and working within enterprise security policies. It is flexible to use – enabling access through any device that can power an Internet browser – thus removing many of the barriers to collaborative working and extended supply chain processing.

"PortWise mVPN and mID were the only remote access solutions that were suitable for our 'best of breed' strategy," said Paul Stellmach, Technology Manager, Investor. "We will continue to work with PortWise to meet with the remote access demands of today, and address the challenges of tomorrow."