

Erik Penser Fondkommission Implements PortWise Virtual Appliance

PortWise's Virtual Appliance has enabled Erik Penser Fondkommission to consolidate their remote access to one single solution, to deliver secure application access for their employees, customers and business partners. The PortWise Virtual Appliance combines a user-friendly SSL VPN with software based 2-factor authentication and runs in a VMware Virtual Server environment

Erik Penser Fondkommission

Erik Penser Fondkommission is an independent and privately owned securities firm, founded in 1994. They offer a wide selection of financial services to private as well as institutional investors. Their main objective is to offer a professional approach to create a good profitability for their clients.

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Secure Remote Access Challenges

When Erik Penser Fondkommission wanted to replace their existing customer application, they needed an access solution that could provide strong policy based

user authentication. Their existing solution was outdated and was based on proprietary hardware. It could not provide the flexibility needed to enforce different levels of authentication for different types of users and applications.

In addition to the customer application, Erik Penser Fondkommission needed a remote access solution for its employees to access their office applications, as well as for its business partners to access business critical systems. The ability to combine multiple authentication mechanisms simultaneously became a key requirement, as was the ability to integrate with multiple directory services for user account management.

Erik Penser Fondkommission wanted to utilize one single solution for all their remote access. The solution thus had to support role based access management, where access was granted on a per application level, based on the user's role and level of authentication. Furthermore, the solution had to guarantee full regulatory compliance, with regards to data encryption, strong user authentication and traceability.

PortWise - The Solution of Choice

One of the challenges for Erik Penser Fondkommission was to find a solution flexible enough to enable secure remote access to a wide range of applications for a variety of users, connecting with computers not managed by the organization itself.

The choice fell on PortWise. With its built-in clientless SSL VPN, PortWise Virtual Appliance could deliver remote access to all of Erik Penser Fondkommission's applications, without having to distribute any client software to their employees, customers and partners. PortWise's directory service integration allowed Erik Penser Fondkommission to seamlessly utilize their existing user role structure, implemented in their Active Directory and Domino Directory, to enforce policy based application access.

PortWise was the only solution providing integrated mechanisms for strong user authentication. PortWise Virtual Appliance allowed different users to log on with different levels of authentication, ranging from static username & passwords, to software token generated one-time-passwords. This combined with the role based access policy management enabled Erik Penser Fondkommission to utilize one single entry for all their remote access. Furthermore, PortWise was the only solution that could meet their strict regulatory compliance requirements.

"Primarily what we were looking for was a solution to secure our customer portal. When we picked PortWise, we got a solution that could also handle access for our employees and business partners, for the same price," said Niklas Åhlander, Erik Penser Fondkommission.

The PortWise Solution

The PortWise software platform provides a holistic approach to secure application access. Going beyond a traditional point security product deployment, the PortWise software platform offers a rich, integrated suite addressing all aspects of secure application access, including strong user authentication, policy based user authorization, and clientless VPN access. Using the PortWise Virtual Appliance, it is possible to provide secure access to critical information and applications for internal users, partners, and customers, from any device in any location.

A favourite feature of PortWise for Erik Penser Fondkommission has been the highly secure Two Factor authentication. Two Factor authentication requires users to input a username and password, as well as hold some kind of unique possession, such as mobile phone or PDA. A one-time password is then sent to or generated from this unique device and is valid for a short period of time.

PortWise and VMware

PortWise, the market leader in Identity and Access Management for the mobile enterprise has been certified by VMware under its certification program for Virtual Appliances. Virtual appliances are pre-built, pre-configured and ready-to-run enterprise software applications packaged along with an operating system within virtual machines.

"PortWise's strategy to be a pure software play with a VMware virtual appliance provides our customers with all the ease of use features of hardware appliances, without restricting them to proprietary hardware with scalability limitations," said Kaushik Thakkar, vice president of strategic alliances and business development at PortWise.

"Our customers will benefit from a state-of-the-art combination of a VMware certified virtual appliance running on VMware Infrastructure."



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