



Date: April 1, 2010

To : Gene Baietto, Purchasing Manager

From: Jim Jandovitz, Manager of Information Technology

Re: Palo Alto Router/Firewall Purchase

This letter is to recommend the sole source purchase of a Palo Alto 2050 Firewall with Threat and URL filtering subscriptions and support for the price of \$21,462.50. This is a unique state of the art technology that was introduced just last year and provides us capabilities of securing and monitoring our computer network unlike any other device in existence today. This is the only device I have other seen to date that will combine our firewalls, router log analyzers, network monitors, and SNMP graph analyzers into one device. JSO Technology LLC is our regional sales representation for this area.

I have highlighted the capabilities and justifications of why the city needs this device.

We were informed by the Motion Picture Industry of someone downloading a copyrighted movie from our network. The Motion Picture industry takes these copyright infringements very seriously along with Time Warner Cable who we get our Intranet access through. The Motion Picture has been known to sue the Internet Service Providers along with the offending individual or company. There have been other incidents of users downloading copyrighted music a few years back. Sites like Kazza, Limewire, and Bittorent make it quite easy to download almost anything including copyrighted material. In order to protect the city we must make an attempt to prevent these downloads from happening. This device can prevent this from happening again.

This Palo Alto router/firewall can block access to any site as we need to. It does this examining the data being passed back and forth to the intranet looking for keys specific to certain sites. These keys are constantly being updated as new sites emerge. It will be possible to monitor/block any internet sites being accessed by anyone in the city, including the public access points. Sites can be blocked by content type (file sharing, yahoo email, pornography, games, computers info, government, etc), by computer, by time of day, and even by user login. So we can configure it so the mayor, department heads can go to any site, while clerks are blocked from certain sites, and other can only go to specific sites.

Along with the ability to web block sites this devices also act as a high speed router. This device will enable Information Technology to eliminate three aging Cisco Routers that provide network security between our Police, City, Library, Schools, and Public Networks. Each of these Cisco routers costs around \$2,500 each. The fewer routers will make the network easier to configure, easier to maintain (three less devices) and more secure (less devices, less chance of configuration errors). The Palo Alto operates at wirespeeds which is 1000mb/s while the Cisco routers can only do about 500mb/s which will increase our speeds between City Hall and the Police and Library. This is important during our nightly backups.

This device also acts as a network time server. A network time server is a centralized time source that maintains time for all computers on the network. This is something the city really should have and I am



surprised the Fire and Police have not made it an issue when it comes to our dispatch times and phone recorded times not being in sync.

Currently, people with new 64 bit computers (Windows Vista, Windows 7) cannot use a VPN to access our network from home. This is becoming a problem as employees are buying new computers and then find out that they cannot use our VPN software to connect to work. Cisco will not be supporting 64 bit VPN clients with our existing Cisco Routers and is requiring us to buy a new security device (\$3000). The Palo Alto includes a VPN feature that will support 64bit computers. It is also web based thereby eliminating the need for us to make a disk every time someone needs a VPN connection and gives us much more control over these users.

This router has Antivirus and anti spyware capabilities built into it. This will prevent viruses and spyware from entering our network. This will block most viruses and spyware from getting to our internal computers. I have been looking a antivirus devices like these in the past that block the virus at the gate before they come into the city.

This Palo Alto device cost \$21,462. This device will replace many other devices and software packages we use to track internet activity and problems. This would have saved us months of work tracking down out internet problems during the past year. This new technology is state of the art and provides us with the Internet monitoring, logging and protection we need as a city.

Thanks,

Jim Jandovitz  
Manager of Information Technology  
City of West Allis