

Product Leadership Awards 2008

Network Access Control

GOLD AWARD: **Nortel Secure Network Access**

Perimeter security is so 20th Century. The days when a firewall could protect a network are long past, if they ever existed in the first place. With organizations dealing with wireless LANs, remote workers, guest network access, and IP telephony, circling the wagons around the network doesn't get the job done. Hence, network access control (NAC) technology is becoming essential to protecting today's networks.

NAC is a method of boosting security by denying endpoint devices access to network resources unless they comply with a defined security policy. NAC technology can also restrict the data that particular users can access, implement other security technologies such as antivirus protection and spyware protection, and continue to monitor user devices and activity for the entire time they are connected to the network.

The NAC market is crowded, with dozens of startups competing with the leading software vendors and network hardware manufacturers. Experts say the market is still maturing as vendors struggle to agree on even a definition of NAC. So SearchNetworking turned to its readers to select their favorite NAC products.

Our readers picked Nortel Secure Network Access (SNA) as the Product Leadership 2008 gold award winner. SNA is a security framework that inspects, assesses, ensures policy compliance, and remediates at the network endpoint source before allowing users network access. It allows network administrators to centrally manage and enforce access policy for all user types.

Nortel SNA supports both Nortel and non-Nortel network environments and adheres to the Trusted Computing Group's Trusted Network Connect specifications, which guarantees that organizations won't be locked into a proprietary architecture.

The core of Nortel SNA is the Nortel Secure Network Access Switch 4050, a network appliance that supports up to 2,500 end users and can be clustered to accommodate up to 10,000 users per switch cluster. It has a browser-based interface for simplified system management and administration, and it provides access control without the installation of agents on endpoint devices.

Ninety-five percent of readers rated Nortel SNA good or excellent for its effectiveness in detecting, blocking and cleaning up malware and exploits. Eighty percent rated Nortel's frequency and speed of signature updates good or excellent, and 75% praised its policy-based NAC as good or excellent.



BEST-IN-CLASS NETWORKING PRODUCTS RECEIVE HONORS FOR 2008

Many different factors can contribute to making a product good -- an excellent reliability record, an unusually easy-to-use interface, or sometimes even a very low price point. But what makes a product great? We think the mark of a great product is when it gets a ringing endorsement from your peers. That's why the 2008 Product Leadership Awards were selected by networking professionals themselves, based on their assessment of the products they currently deploy.

The editors at SearchNetworking.com used a survey-based system to discover what products readers are using and how they feel about those products. The questions asked depended on the specific product and its important functions. The editors compiled the results to come up with the best products that are actually being used to keep today's networks running efficiently, reliably and safely.

More than 1800 SearchNetworking.com readers were polled to produce results. Respondents were asked to select the products they currently use in 12 categories and to evaluate them according to product-specific criteria. Each criterion was assigned a weighed value based on importance, and cumulative scores were calculated for each product. SearchNetworking.com editors used these scores to award gold, silver and bronze medals to the industry's best products in 12 categories.

The top winners in this category are:

GOLD AWARD: NORTEL SECURE NETWORK ACCESS

The network access control (NAC) market is broad and diverse, with countless startups competing with industry giants for a share. Our readers selected Secure Network Access from Nortel Networks as the gold winner, citing its ability to block and clean up malware and exploits and its policy-based NAC.

SILVER AWARD: JUNIPER NETWORKS UNIFIED ACCESS CONTROL

The silver award for network access control goes to Unified Access Control from Juniper Networks, which earned praise for its policy-based network access control, frequency and speed of signature updates, and reporting and alerting features.

BRONZE AWARD: TREND MICRO NETWORK VIRUSWALL ENFORCER

The bronze award for network access control goes to the Network VirusWall Enforcer from Trend Micro, which earned high marks for its frequency and speed of signature updates and its effectiveness in detecting, blocking and cleaning up malware and exploits.