



‘Network Box has functioned for six months of continuous use as if it were not there.’

Alan R Crockett
Director



INDUSTRY Engineering

Wilson, Ihrig & Associates, Hong Kong Limited (WIAHK) is a “boutique” consultancy specialising in the assessment and control of noise and vibration. Although the company’s experience ranges over projects related to semi-conductor fabrication facilities, general architectural acoustics and large infrastructure works, the company primarily focus on transportation related noise and vibration control and the design of building base vibration isolation systems. WIAHK’s long-term clients in Hong Kong include the Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation (system-wide noise and vibration consultant), the Mass Transit Railway Corporation (noise and vibration specialist) and Hong Kong Movie City (designer of all building base and studio room vibration isolation systems). WIAHK’s work takes the company extensively throughout the East Asian region and to other parts of the world, either to perform work on other projects or as representatives of its Hong Kong clients.

Although WIAHK’s staff is not large, the company’s business is highly dependent on its computer systems and network. WIAHK perform sophisticated physical modeling of noise and vibration problems on very fast workstations, as well as analyse and store large quantities of measurement data on our systems and

server. As the company’s staff travel extensively, much work is performed on the road, with trouble-free-two-way email, fax and file transfer with the office an essential component of their work. As the company’s electronically stored information is vital, the case of remote access must be carefully balanced against its system security needs.

Until the Network Box came along, WIAHK could not justify the initial cost and maintenance expense of a comprehensive, self-updating and flexible firewall, and therefore limited their remote and internet capabilities for security reasons. When the Network Box first became commercially available about six months ago, the value-for-dollar for the system seemed very reasonable, with capabilities comparable or exceeding that of other systems many times the cost. Critically, it was described as a virtually maintenance free system from the point of view of the user.

WIAHK purchased one of the first commercially available systems and the Technology Shop technicians fully integrated it into our network, explaining all of the security vs. access options, and implementing those options that were for us.

The Network Box has now been in operation for six months. It updates itself as regards the latest virus signatures and other security measures. Every two weeks

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This case study was authorised by Wilson, Ihrig & Associates, Hong Kong Limited (WIAHK) on 19 April 2002

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WIAHK receive a summary of hack attempts, firewall alerts, blocked viruses and other information. It is obvious that it is performing a tremendous amount of work protecting WIAHK's network, providing protection that we would not otherwise have, and totally in the background. When WIAHK reboot its server, the Network Box comes on-line seamlessly, with no action required on our part.

For Consultants like WIAHK, time equals money. Client satisfaction requires timely delivery of work. Messing around

with computer functionalities that sometimes work, or in the worst case, that bring down network or Internet communications is not just frustrating, it can be very expensive or can result in dissatisfied clients.

The very best compliment WIAHK can give the Network Box is that it has functioned for six months of continuous use as if it were not there. It has done its job blocking threats, yet it has required no maintenance, and has not interfered with any other network related activities, especially vital remote access.



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