



Customer Case Study

Berding & Weil, LLP: First Northern CA Law Firm to Implement Safe Third Party Network Access



"We consider our secure LAN a unique differentiator in our business where client data confidentiality and integrity is of critical importance. By implementing Nevis, we have augmented our innovative and customer-focused legal services with cutting-edge technology. At Berding-Weil, our clients come first and they are assured their confidential information is safe."

--Tyler Berding, Partner, Berding & Weil LLP

Berding & Weil's clients rely upon significant collective expertise to protect their rights with respect to residential and commercial real estate issues. Similarly, it was of paramount importance that Berding & Weil rely on a solid LAN security solution partner to protect their critical information assets from threats such as unauthorized access and malicious users. Additionally, Berding & Weil needed to ensure rapid investigation into security incidents in order to be compliant with CA's SB-1386 statute which requires customer notification of any and all suspected security breaches.

About Berding & Weil, LLP

Berding & Weil attorneys are experts in advancing the rights of owners of residential and commercial real estate. The firm achieves success for its clients in all types of real estate transactions and litigation. Berding & Weil has been awarded an "AV" rating by Martindale-Hubbell, a national attorney rating service. This is the highest rating given in any area of practice.

Key Challenges

Like many enterprises, Berding & Weil was concerned about establishing effective access controls for third party users such as guests, contract attorneys, visiting clients, etc. Additionally, the firm was looking to provide highly granular user profiles based on employee responsibility to support their security policy. Before implementing the Nevis LANenforcer solution, the firm was challenged with cost-effectively securing common areas against risks from unauthorized users.

Threat mitigation was another key challenge for Berding & Weil. Without the Nevis LANenforcer in place, if an attorney was to leave the office with his laptop and connect to the Internet and/or other networks, his laptop could easily become infected and propagate the infection enterprise-wide immediately after connecting back to the Berding & Weil LAN.

Finally, Berding & Weil required a reliable audit trail of user accesses to sensitive data in order to validate adherence to the corporate security policy, CA SB-1386 compliance and provide support for information security incident investigations.

Nevis' Solution for Berding & Weil, LLP

By deploying the Nevis LANenforcer solution, Berding & Weil has achieved the following benefits:

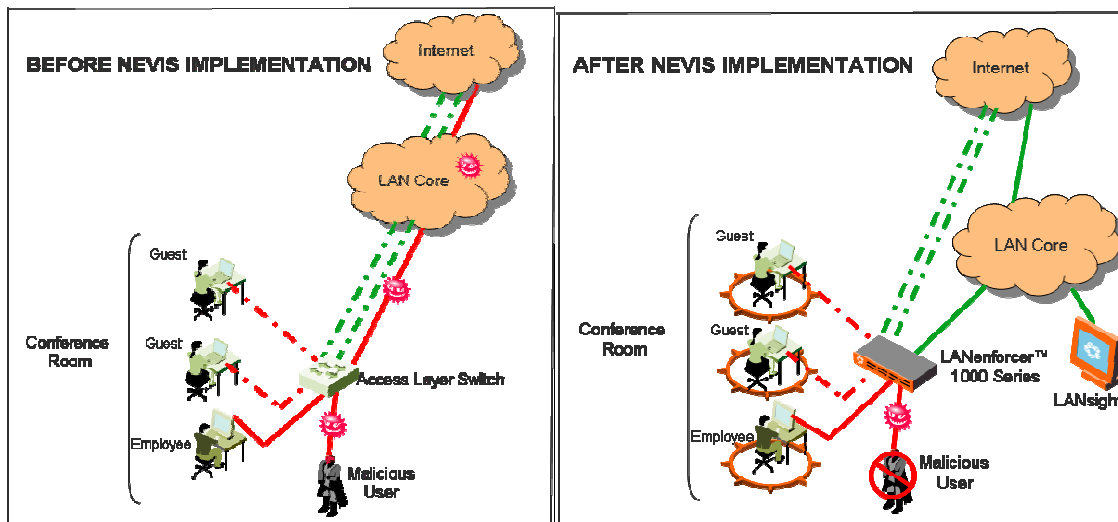
- ✓ Granular, identity-based access control to protect public areas from unauthorized or malicious users;
- ✓ Demonstration of security and regulatory due diligence to clients;
- ✓ Robust information security incident response and root cause analysis – immediately linking specific access activity to individual users – for rapid remediation;
- ✓ Improved productivity.

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Phased Deployment Fixes the Biggest Risks First

Bering & Weil decided to implement a phased deployment based on security zones throughout the firm's network. In order to support their security initiatives and ensure consistency of user experience for their guests, clients and employees, the first phase of the deployment is focused on securing high risk areas such as publicly accessible areas (the lobby, conference rooms, etc).

The Nevis LANenforcer 1048 access switches offer a secure access layer using 802.1x authentication to connect visitors and guests to conference rooms, protecting sensitive data resources residing within the core LAN infrastructure. As seen below, the LANenforcer applies user identity-based access policies to allow employees in conference rooms access to LAN resources and the Internet, while guests are only permitted Internet access. Unauthorized users are denied access entirely.



Before implementing LANenforcer, Berding & Weil had no way to ensure safe third party access from conference rooms and other public areas.

With LANenforcer in place, Berding & Weil has cost-effectively provided secure third party access, significantly reducing risk in their environment.

Later phases will include deploying Nevis LANenforcer to trusted environments such as employee segments and server VLANs.

"At Berding-Weil, we view common areas such as lobbies, conference rooms and even outside the building, as points of entry to the network that we need to guard carefully for our clients. Controlling access based on a user's identity truly gives us the security we need and gives us a competitive edge by guaranteeing client confidentiality and data integrity."

--Tod McKelvy, Executive Director, Berding & Weil LLP