

Creating Reliable Broadband & VPN Links for Avon Tyrrell Activity Centre



Client:

Avon Tyrrell Activity Centre

Partner:

Christchurch Computer Centre

About the company:

Avon Tyrrell Activity Centre is an outdoor activity and residential centre based in the New Forest for mainly young people in either primary or secondary education. The Centre is a large listed building and provides a whole host of outdoor activities that help children experience new challenges in a fun, teaming environment. ATAC is part of a "UK Youth", the leading national youth work charity supporting over 750,000 young people.

Products:



Vigor 2950 VPN Router



Vigor 120 ADSL Ethernet Modem

The Overview

To meet the demand for remote access among hybrid workers operating between home and office environments, a robust solution was devised. This involved the establishment of a resilient, secure, and flexible network centered around the Vigor 2950 VPN Router and Vigor 120 ADSL Ethernet Modem. Since the implementation of this solution, the network has proven to be highly reliable, with no instances of downtime, ensuring a consistently solid and dependable connection for the hybrid workforce.

The Requirement

In 2007 Avon Tyrrell downsized their London office and moved key employees to the main centre in the New Forest. As part of this exercise, systems were standardised such that everyone used a common email system, data was stored centrally with backups, and opportunities to reduce costs were identified.

The London office was to continue with five staff where the finance software and mail server is hosted. Fifteen workers at the Activity Centre would need access to these systems in their office and from home. A decision was also made to use Voiceover-IP (VoIP) technology to reduce telephone call costs.

- Unified systems that were common to all staff
- Remote access between offices and teleworkers
- Value-for-money so that charity funds deliver the best ROI
- Reduce monthly costs where possible
- Security, reliability and performance

The Solution

"Once we understood Avon Tyrrell's requirements DrayTek was the obvious choice. Our previous experience with them was very good and we know them to provide robust products that do the job and can be deployed easily".

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Steve Jones, Christchurch Computer Centre

CCC assisted Avon Tyrrell in implementing a fully resilient, secure and flexible network based around DrayTek's Vigor 2950 and Vigor 2820 load balancing routers.

At the New Forest office, a Vigor 2950 was installed with two ADSL lines to handle the data communications requirements. The load balancing feature allows both lines to be used to provide maximum performance and in the event of line failure the alternate line takes over automatically. A VPN (Virtual Private Networking) tunnel was used to create a secure connection between the offices over the Internet.

For voice, a VoIP server (IPPBX) was installed at New Forest which connects with a second Vigor 2950, also with two load-balanced ADSL lines. This enables the charity to make free calls across the internet to the London office and home users which has resulted in a saving in excess of £200 per month on telephone calls, as well as the additional cost of line rental.

In the London office and remote worker homes, a Vigor 2820 provided the ADSL/VPN connectivity and load-balancing/failover for the London office.

"If you're buying a router for business, it's an obvious choice".



PC Pro Magazine



The Conclusion

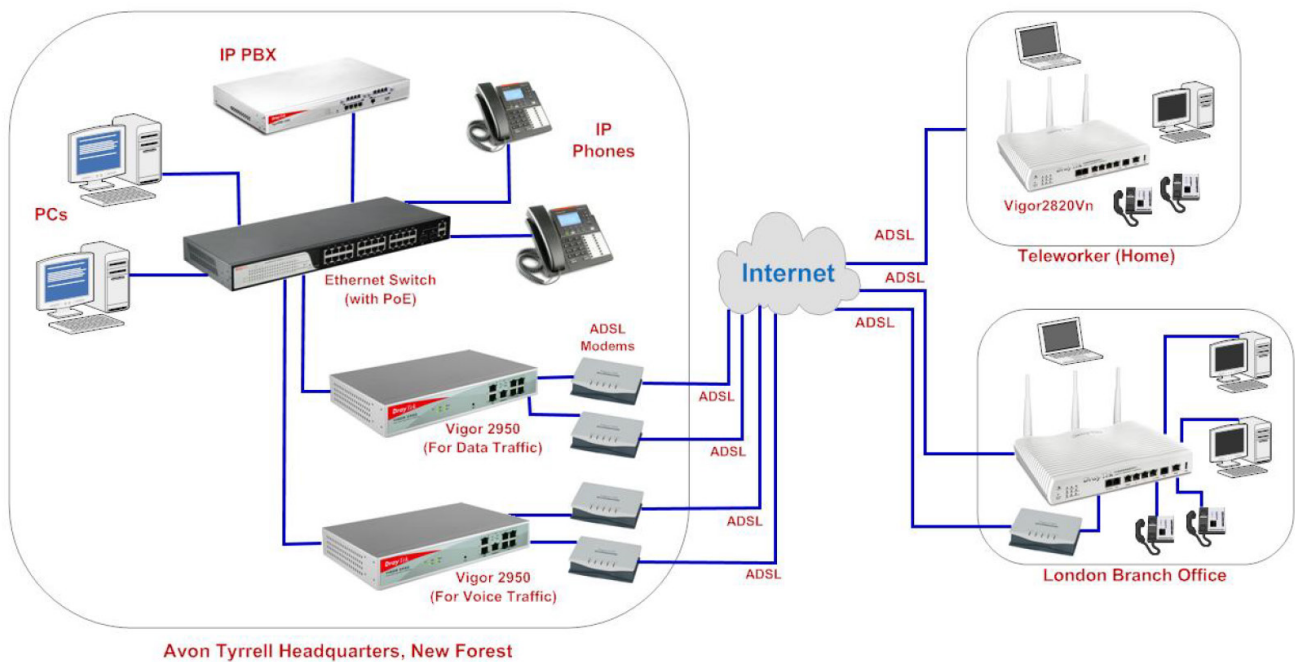
"Since we installed the DrayTek solution in 2007 the network has never fallen over and been completely solid. As a charity we have to be very careful on spending and I can honestly say that this was one of the best purchases we have made. It's so reliable and we've made huge savings in call costs."

David Watts, Operations & Centre Manager, Avon Tyrrell Activity Centre

Avon Tyrrell's headquarters in the New Forest uses ADSL for its voice and data traffic. Voice calls, incoming and outgoing use Voice-over-IP using an IPPBX on-site. The IPPBX and the IP Telephones use one Vigor 2950 Router/Firewall for their Internet access. That Vigor 2950 uses a pair of line in order to allow for failover in the event of one internet connection failing – ADSL can be unreliable in remote locations such as theirs. A second Vigor 2950, with another pair of Vigor 120 modems and ADSL lines is used exclusively for their data requirements (web access, email etc.), again with the second modem and line providing contingency in the event of the first line failing.

The remote office in London also has two lines for failover and two telephones which act as extensions off the main PBX in the New Forest. Remote workers have a similar setup, with single ADSL or cable-modem lines.

Avon Tyrrell - Network Topology (Simplified)



DrayTek Corp. was established in 1997 with a mission to design and build premium networking products to help business make their most of the online connectivity. DrayTek's product lines range from enterprise-level firewall Security, VPN facilities for teleworking and branch-linking, versatile xDSL CPE, Switching, Voice-over-IP and wireless solutions:

- Complete range of WAN Security/Routing products
- Headquarters, Taipei, Taiwan, ROC
- Specialising in innovative networking products Worldwide Distribution and offices
- Listed on Taiwanese Stock Exchange 2004
- 180 employees worldwide, 45% R&D
- ISO 9001 Certified

DrayTek

CMS Distribution
2nd Floor, 15 Worship Street
London
EC2A 2DT, UK

Email : info@draytek.co.uk
Telephone : 0345 5570007
VoIP : 800800@draytel.org (SIP)