



### The Organization

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### The Challenge

Defending the network against sophisticated emergent attacks

### The SonicWALL Solution

- SonicWALL E-Class Network Security Appliance (NSA) E6500
- SonicWALL Email Security Appliance

### The Results

- Eliminated cyber-threats and spam
- Enhanced collaboration and productivity
- Reduced administration overhead and total cost of ownership (TCO)

Founded in 1998, the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center is a not-for-profit research institute with a global vision to improve the human condition. Research at the Danforth Center will enhance the nutritional content of plants to improve human health, increase agricultural production to create a sustainable food supply, and build scientific capacity to generate economic growth in the St. Louis region and throughout Missouri. For more information please visit [www.danforthcenter.org](http://www.danforthcenter.org).

### The challenge: defending the network against sophisticated attacks

The Center started looking at alternatives to its discontinued and functionally-limited Cisco® PIX network security appliance after it began having problems preventing SQL injection attacks, which exploit security vulnerabilities at an applications' database layer.

The malicious SQL injection attacks defaced the Center's public Web pages, critically undermining the site's integrity. The Center's activities require collaboration between researchers attached to the center, universities allied with the center and scientists from around the world. Restoring the pages was very time-intensive and consumed the Center's limited IT resources. Simultaneously, the Center was seeing an increase in virus and spyware attacks.

"One guy would pass it on to the next, and suddenly we'd be troubleshooting ten machines tracking it down," said Jeremy Tate, Senior Technical Analyst. "Not only were all my daily activities put on hold, but our scientists were kept from doing research or writing grants. It wasn't just a pain. It was a serious impact on productivity."

Additionally, as a global research center, the Center receives e-mail from people around the world, but was being overwhelmed by spam attacks. The center needed an alternative to its existing solution to ensure reliable e-mail security.

### The solution: SonicWALL® network security, secure remote access, secure distributed wireless, email security, and backup and recovery solutions

Tate's team conducted extensive research before selecting a replacement solution for their network security appliance.

"We looked at Cisco, F5®, and TippingPoint® appliances, as well as an AT&T® managed solution," said Tate. "It came down to how much performance we were going to get for our investment. The SonicWALL E6500 came out on top."

To assist in the deployment, Tate turned to network and managed service supplier Professional Network Solutions. Professional Network Solutions was able to migrate from the Danforth Center's Cisco product to a more powerful SonicWALL NSA E6500 with virtually no downtime of the network.

## The Donald Danforth Plant Science Center Case Study

*"When we considered both upfront and ongoing maintenance costs, SonicWALL has by far the best performance for the price point."*

—Jeremy Tate  
Senior Technical Analyst  
Donald Danforth Plant  
Science Center

### SonicWALL Benefits

- High-speed multi-core platform
- Reassembly-free Deep Packet Inspection™ (RFDPI)
- Unified Threat Management (UTM)
- Interactive junk mail summaries



The SonicWALL E-Class Network Security Appliance (NSA) E6500 is engineered to combat the evolving threats to the enterprise network by providing administrators with a high performance, scalable, multifunction threat prevention appliance. Leveraging specialized multi-core processing technology, the NSA E6500 combines parallel traffic processing with SonicWALL's Reassembly-free Deep Packet Inspection™ engine. The NSA E6500 empowers administrators with customizable Application Firewall tools for precise control and inspection over network traffic.

For their anti-spam solution, the Center replaced their Symantec® solution with a SonicWALL Email Security appliance. SonicWALL Email Security is an award-winning anti-spam, anti-virus, anti-phishing, policy, and compliance management e-mail protection solution. Available as a hardened appliance or as Windows software, SonicWALL Email Security protects inbound and outbound e-mail for organizations of less than 25 to over 100,000 users.

### The result: a comprehensive and affordable high-performance network security solution

"SonicWALL was able to secure the network, eliminate cyber threats and still allow the network access needed for collaborative research," said Barry Cress, Vice President of Professional Network Solutions. "There were no other choices that provided the full suite of security features operating in a high-throughput network and still meet the customer's budget."

The results were instant and effective. "SonicWALL helped me write a little script for the Application Firewall feature that immediately stopped the SQL injection," said Tate. He has also configured the E6500 for firewall intrusion prevention, virus protection and anti-spyware.

"The spyware detection has been absolutely fantastic," said Tate. "Now we don't spend wasted hours dealing with that. I can honestly say that since we've put it in place, we haven't had a problem with inbound spyware."

The Center has also seen increased productivity from its SonicWALL Email Security solution.

"Other spam filters block emails containing broken or limited English as spam," said Tate. "SonicWALL lets users un-junk legitimate e-mails and automatically add the sender to the allow list. It's fantastic."

The SonicWALL Email Security solution also significantly lowered the Center's total cost of ownership by eliminating IT overhead.

"Symantec was all manual," said Tate. "We'd constantly get false positives, or legitimate mail wasn't getting through. Because SonicWALL was so automated, it required very little management time or resources. It's been really, really nice for us."

### The future: a secondary E6500 to enhance reliability

Tate plans to take full advantage of the E6500's high-availability and automatic failover by adding a second appliance.

"When we considered both upfront and ongoing maintenance costs, SonicWALL has by far the best performance for the price point," said Tate. "While there are less expensive options out there, their performance doesn't come anywhere close to SonicWALL. And everything else we looked at was going to cost three to ten times as much for the same performance."

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