

## Jiangmen Education Network System Protects User Access with StoneGate High Availability Firewall and VPN Solution

### Background

In April 2001, the Jiangmen Education Bureau in Guangzhou, China, partnered with Suntek Group, a high-tech company specializing in software development and systems integration, to establish Wu Yi Educational Networks Ltd. For the purpose of creating a sophisticated education network in Southern China.

With the support of the Jiangmen government, Suntek initially invested RMB10 million to develop the Jiangmen Education Network System, a large-scale open network center that would connect all educational institutions in Guangzhou through a Wide Area Network, including Internet external access. The first phase of the network was completed in September, 2001. Wu Yi Education Networks became manager of network center operations.

According to Ma Ke, general manager of Guangdong Wu Yi Network Development Ltd, approximately 100 schools have been connecting to the network for various services. By 2003, that number will grow to around 800 schools. Suntek is investing a total of RMB 240 million for the project, under a 15-year operation agreement with the Jiangmen Education Bureau.

The Jiangmen Education Network System is part of Jiangmen Education Bureau's technology program to build a network platform that will use Internet/intranet to interconnect departments within educational institutions throughout the province. The network will enable students to access online services, for example, to locate resources for studies and research and to exchange ideas and experiences. Families will be able the network to access such services as video-on-demand and to conduct after-school counseling.

The network also serves as the metropolitan area network (MAN) for the Jiangmen Education Bureau to control network resources, issue policy information, and set up internal office systems. The school faculty can download teaching materials and check statistical information and teaching status online.

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### The Need

One of the main concerns in developing and managing the Jiangmen Education Network Systems' operations is ensuring a secure and highly available computing environment. This is important because the center is tasked with providing user certification, managing resource allocation, controlling Internet access to prevent users from accessing inappropriate Websites, unifying Internet access, and providing users with appropriate bandwidth and speed for broadcast communications.

The Jiangmen Education Network Systems operates on a multi-platform computing environment, including 45 high-end Unix servers and workstations running such mission critical applications as accounting and billing systems, as well as sub-systems, plus subsystems for remote education, administrative management, public information, and e-commerce.

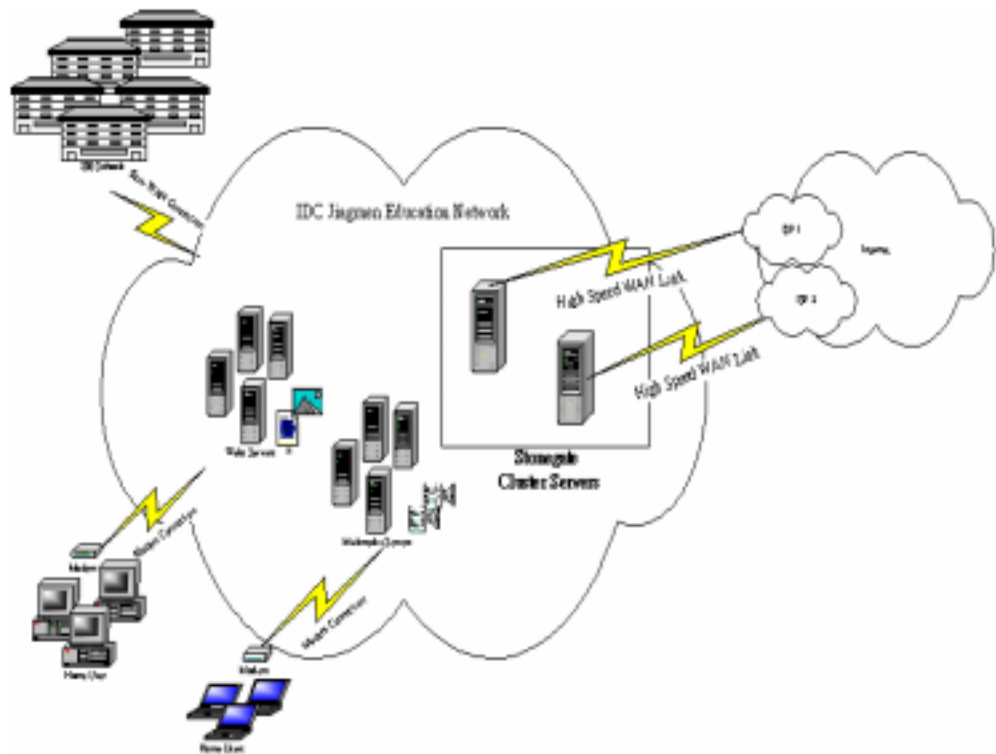
Having a highly available system is critical because the network must connect the Jiangmen government with the information systems of such other agencies as health, public order, labour and science study to provide users with a variety of relevant data from an enormous data resource center.

### The Solution

During the first phase of the network's implementation, Guangdong Wu Yi Educational Network Ltd. evaluated numerous firewall solutions. After comparing the features of several firewalls, the company selected Stonesoft's StoneGate, a high availability firewall and VPN solution that provides for 24x7 network security and Internet connectivity.

Designed for today's distributed enterprises, StoneGate is the first firewall and VPN solution to provide advanced security, reliability, and performance, including elimination of the Internet as a potential point of network failure by providing multiple ISP connectivity and load balancing.

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*Figure 1: The Jiangmen Education Network System's computing environment with StoneGate High Availability Firewall and VPN solution*

Traditional network security approaches require costly installation and on-going management, as each server node requires separate configuration of each layer: operating system, firewall, and high availability components. With StoneGate, all software components are Integrated, simplifying and accelerating installation and configuration from a single, central management server.

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Firewall traffic inspection has typically forced a trade-off between the speed and flexibility of stateful inspection and the high security of application-level proxy inspection. StoneGate's multi-layer inspection technology accomplishes both security goals. It applies sophisticated inspection methods without compromising performance. StoneGate's embedded operating system adds the security and manageability of a customized, hardened operating system.

Another key feature of StoneGate is its Multi-Link Technology, which provides high availability and load balancing for Internet and VPN traffic across multiple ISP connections. It automatically maintains the fastest possible link to the Internet and eliminates Internet connection as a potential point of failure.

StoneGate's integration of firewall security, high availability, load balancing and VPN service avoids problems associated with approaches that combine multiple vendors services. It lowers technical risks, reduces overall costs, and simplifies security and network management responsibilities.

## The Results

For networks like Jiangmen Education Network System that require high bandwidth, load balancing between multiple ISP connections, highly reliable VPN with multiple ISP connections and highly scalable firewalls, StoneGate's high availability firewall and VPN solution is the right choice.

With StoneGate, Jiangmen Education Network System needn't worry about security breaches or system failures that could interrupt the flow of information within their network, as StoneGate's high availability and high performance technologies assure continuous, uninterrupted protection.

Says Ma Ke: "We selected StoneGate because of its capability to provide multiple ISP connections, ease of installation, load balancing capability, and highly secure platform. We are now using the solution as our Internet outbound firewall to protect our network."

## Enabling the Secure, Highly Available Enterprise<sup>SM</sup>

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