



## N-ERGIE Clavister Customer Spotlight

### Challenge

- N-ERGIE was looking for a solution to strengthen network security and protect against computer viruses.
- The utility provider also needed the reassurance that no 'single point of failure' exists, and that central administration and monitoring is provided.

### Solution

- The easy to configure Clavister Security Gateway 4200 Series (4230) was implemented.
- Clavister's central firewall management tool Finetune performs the management and monitoring of the networks.
- N-ERGIE plans to activate Clavister's Extended UTM on its main cluster to provide an even higher level of network security.

### Benefits

- N-ERGIE's network now has strengthened levels of security and is protected from viruses and other Internet attacks.
- The firewall cluster is constantly monitored for performance and utilization.
- With easily upgradable Clavister Security Gateway products, N-ERGIE has an established security roadmap for the future.
- Centralized administration combines greater efficiency with cost saving.

### Utilities provider implements Clavister solution to strengthen network security

*"When looking for the ideal security solution to protect our network, the Clavister Security Gateway Series was recommended to us. This solution has surpassed our expectations and provides us with central administration and monitoring."*

*Michael Ringler, network systems engineer, Itec Plus GmbH (part of N-ERGIE Plc).*

N-ERGIE AG, Nuremberg, is one of the Top 10 companies in the German electricity market. In addition to power, its portfolio includes natural gas, water and district heating as well as energy services.

itecPlus GmbH, a wholly-owned subsidiary of N-ERGIE, provides a failsafe IT network infrastructure between the organization's data centers, other sites and subsidiaries. It is vitally important that Internet access and access from the web to the internal servers is secure, so N-ERGIE turned to Clavister to provide a powerful firewall solution. The firewall was implemented by EDV-Partner GmbH.

### Strengthened security

N-ERGIE needed a solution that would strengthen network security and protect against viruses, worms, Trojans, phishing and other Internet-related attacks. Also, as N-ERGIE's branch offices are connected with high Wide Area Network (WAN) bandwidth (100 MBit), a solution with several Gbit connections was needed. N-ERGIE also required guarantees that no 'single point of failure' would exist and that central administration and monitoring be provided.

EDV-Partner introduced itecPlus to Clavister and recommended Clavister's Security Gateway 4200 Series (4230) as it would provide the right level of security to protect the business. Combining flexibility with reliability and high-performance, the Clavister Security Gateway products are easy to upgrade, need minimal maintenance and are straightforward to administer and manage.

It was decided that four Clavister Security Gateway clusters should be used. The first cluster protects email, web hosting and Internet traffic; the second cluster secures the company's external IT services (internal web servers, database servers and mail servers) and the third cluster protects dial-in traffic from mobile users via analogue/ISDN/VPN. The Virtual Private Network tunnels are provided by third-party devices in front of the firewall cluster. The fourth cluster handles

## ABOUT N-ERGIE

N-ERGIE ([www.n-ergie.de](http://www.n-ergie.de)) was established in 2000. Its network covers large parts of Middle Franconia in Germany as well as neighboring areas. Currently the company employs about 2,600 people and has a turnover of €1.8 billion. The eighth largest utility company in the country, N-ERGIE provides around 650,000 customers with electricity, gas, heat, water and additional services. Its service network stretches across a wide area with an electrical grid that is 25,709km long, a gas supply grid of 2,948km and a water supply network of 2,140km.

[www.n-ergie.de](http://www.n-ergie.de)

security of the communications between the central data center and the subsidiaries that are connected over several Gigabit connections. Clavister's central firewall management tool Finetune performs the management and monitoring of the networks.

### Tried and tested

N-ERGIE piloted the first cluster during a training workshop so all users could experience it. The pilot showed that there was no delay or outage in the Internet Protocol (IP) traffic and after several months of operation further clusters were brought into operation. It also highlighted the fact that the connected network switches were not able to cope with the failover fast enough on a Layer 2 level. The solution was to disable the Spanning Tree Protocol (STP) on the participating ports.

The clusters are now implemented and the firewall cluster is constantly monitored for performance and utilization.

itecPlus also tested the new Clavister Extended UTM™ (xUTM) features in its laboratory. Since Intrusion Detection and Prevention (IDP) can be activated, there are plans to utilize these features on the main cluster to provide an even higher level of network security.

The simple configuration of Clavister's technology is an advantage to N-ERGIE, and with eight appliance firewalls, centralized administration is now possible. Optimal monitoring is achieved through the company's WAN monitoring tool.

---

## About Clavister

Since 1997, Clavister has been delivering leading network security solutions, providing commercial advantage to tens of thousands of businesses worldwide. The Clavister family of unified threat management (UTM) appliances and remote access solutions provide innovative and flexible network security with world-class management and control.

Clavister has pioneered virtual network security, and this along with its portfolio of hardware and software appliances gives customers the ultimate choice. Clavister products are backed by Clavister's award-winning support, maintenance and education program.

Headquartered in Sweden, Clavister's solutions are sold through International sales offices, distributors, and resellers throughout EMEA and Asia.

To learn more, visit [www.clavister.com](http://www.clavister.com).

**CLAVISTER®**  
**WE ARE NETWORK SECURITY**

Clavister AB, Sjögatan 6 J, SE-891 60 Örnsköldsvik, Sweden  
Phone: +46 (0)660 29 92 00 | Fax: +46 (0)660 122 50 | Web: [www.clavister.com](http://www.clavister.com) | Email: [info@clavister.com](mailto:info@clavister.com)