

Astaro Ships World' First Unified Threat Management Appliance

Network Assurance solution for VMware users offers superior security and maximum flexibility.

London and Karlsruhe (Germany) – 12th May 2006 - Astaro Corporation today announced the general availability of the world's first Network Assurance virtual appliance, Astaro™ Security Gateway for VMware®. Defining a new standard of network security and manageability, Astaro Security Gateway for VMware enables managed service providers and enterprises to maximise network protection and hardware utilisation while offering astonishing flexibility and lowered overall administrative cost.

Astaro Security Gateway for VMware allows customers to flexibly run Astaro Security Gateway software on a VMware infrastructure. Many hundreds or thousands of Astaro Security Gateways can be virtualised in this way, each delivering the network protection and cleaning for which Astaro is famous. In addition, the new Astaro Command Center will allow for a single, integrated view and unified control of any number of Astaro Security Gateways for VMware and/or Astaro Security Gateway physical appliances.

The Astaro Security Gateway for VMware virtual appliance is identical to the company's physical appliances and is designed to deliver all the functionality of the physical device. The major difference is that instead of being built on a physical computing device, a virtual appliance is built using virtual machine technology and can be run on VMware Player, VMware Workstation, VMware Server, or VMware ESX Server. Major benefits for users include simpler deployment in large and complex environments, better hardware allocation and reduced hardware expenditures because physical computers can run multiple virtual appliances. And because Astaro's unified threat management is ASIC-free, performance when running in a virtual machine is maximised.

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The ability to virtualise gateway security services opens up major new capabilities for managed service providers (MSPs) to deliver air-tight security services to small and medium-size business customers," said Richard Stiennon, founder, IT-Harvest Group. "MSPs can leverage their hardware investment while providing dedicated security services to end-user customers, resulting in superior security and manageability."

"Virtualisation of the Astaro Security Gateway is a natural step for us," said Gert Hansen, chief software architect, Astaro Corporation. "Because our security appliance is very flexible and does not rely on dedicated hardware, every function in the Astaro Security Gateway can be easily virtualised. As a result, we are able to deliver excellent performance while keeping all the benefits of a standardised virtual platform."

About Astaro

Astaro develops a complete line of network security products including the Astaro Security Gateway software and Astaro Security Gateway line of security appliances. All Astaro products offer nine critical security applications in three categories - Web Security, Email Security and Network Security - fully integrated on a single management platform. The company is headquartered in Karlsruhe, Germany and with facilities in Burlington, Mass.. Astaro's software has won numerous industry awards, and is protecting over 25,000 networks in 60 countries, including such organisations as EADS, Los Alamos National Labs and Stanford University. Astaro products are distributed by a worldwide network of 450 solutions partners who offer local support and services.

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