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Security Platform Release 4



Netilla Security Platform Release 4

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August 19, 2003

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- Product: Netilla Security Platform Release 4
- Price: 50 users, \$10,000 list
- Company Info: 877-638-4552, www.netilla.com

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At press time, only the late beta release of the Netilla Security Platform (NSP) Release 4 firmware was available for review, though Netilla representatives said this release incorporated final code, and the product should be available to customers by the time you read this.

The NSP combines broad application support with ease of use. Its remote-access capabilities are divided into three main categories of applications: Web-based and intranet, client/server, and local.

With Release 4, Netilla has added reverse proxy server features to Web-based back-end applications. While this is a somewhat late introduction for such features compared with other manufacturers, we found the company's efforts thorough and comprehensive. Aside from Web-based applications, the unit provides access to Windows, Unix, and even mainframe applications.



Netilla user file access

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Connecting Web-based resources is extremely easy, and the NSP's

management interface provides detailed security control. Administrators can determine what applications remote clients can access by reviewing policies established on the basis of user and group settings.

We are similarly pleased with the simplicity with which we could set up authentication based on our Active Directory (AD) server. The device let us access both user and AD group information directly in its user interface—the only product here with this feature.

The NSP supports several productivity applications that reside on remote users' computers and that require an SSL tunnel and back-end connectivity, including Microsoft Outlook. But Netilla's virtual adapter, a client application, is needed for such support. The adapter is downloaded automatically when users first try to negotiate an SSL tunnel setup.

Windows and Unix client/server applications are also supported without the need for a VPN client or additional software. The NSP deploys a unique display-extraction protocol that sends just the screen data from the application to remote users. This is different from the emulation process, which remains local, thus being agnostic to the application running on the back-end server.

This means that the NSP does not require additional transport applications like WRQ's Web-based terminal emulation package used by the Neoteris device to deliver the data to the remote client. There is still one catch: Users are required to accept a small Java applet at the first log-on attempt. This can prove to be a hurdle when users are working from kiosk terminals, which are often locked down, preventing the download of anything, including Java applets or ActiveX controls.

Administrators and users of the Netilla product share a very similar interface, though the administrator interface has a far more in-depth toolset for general appliance management.

Overall, Netilla's offering is impressive, especially in terms of features and ease of use. But we would like to have seen some must-have integrated features for larger businesses, such as SNMP support, load balancing and fail-over, and support for NFS shares, as well as an option for hardware-based SSL acceleration and compression.

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