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GET TECHNOLOGY RIGHT

TEST CENTER

NETWORKING

Aggregating Multiple WAN Links *(Excerpted)*

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FatPipe IPVPN

The IPVPN is based on a 4U (7.5-inch) industrial chassis, which is normally configured with four 10/100 cards, three for WAN links and one for the internal LAN link. Additional options include GbE and additional links, and other features such as dual power supplies or redundant units.

FatPipe IPVPN

The IPVPN uses a default IP address to enable initial Web configuration. This means that there's no need to find a serial cable and use the command line, which makes it easier and faster to set up. The Java-based management console provides a clean, clear interface that is easy to maneuver through, which makes setting the necessary interface information straightforward. Administrators will appreciate the pager or e-mail alerts, traffic monitoring, and speed charting.

Load-balancing algorithms include round robin, quickest response time, policy routing, and "fastest route," which chooses the fastest route to each client individually. You can also configure a fail-over mode, which uses the only fastest (or cheapest) route unless it fails, and the IPVPN can be configured with two units for automatic fail-over.

SmartDNS, which is necessary for the functionality of the box, selects the fastest line for inbound traffic and provides for inbound IP line fail-over without requiring BGP (Border Gateway Patrol) protocol. To do this, it requires that the ISP DNS server refer DNS queries to the FatPipe device; when queries are received, the appropriate IP address is returned, depending on which WAN connection the request came over.

IPVPN also allows policy routing, which speeds things by allowing outbound traffic to be sent over a specific WAN link, ensuring that traffic to Europe, for instance, is routed through a U.S. ISP rather than through Asia first. The pass-through feature allows incoming traffic sent to any of multiple IP addresses to be sent to a single, actual server; each WAN provider can supply a separate DNS entry for the company Web server, and all traffic will get through properly on the dedicated line.

Reverse mapping has a similar benefit, but works for networks rather than servers by mapping any traffic sent to any defined network to the actual internal network. This mapping simplifies DNS configuration and makes it easier for users to get to the servers they want.

On the security side, FatPipe has MPSec (Multi-Path Security). MPSec is not specifically encryption, but because data is divided across a number of WAN links, traffic interception is much more difficult — all the data is not available on any one link. IPVPN is also compatible with security protocols, including IPsec and SSL.

The IPVPN is an excellent choice for companies migrating from frame-relay to Internet-based WAN links. Because existing networks may already have firewalls, load shapers, and load balancers — or companies may wish to place those features in parts of the network other than the DMZ (demilitarized zone) where the IPVPN is located — its smaller feature set would not be a detriment.

FatPipe IPVPN

FatPipe Networks
fatpipeinc.com

VERY GOOD 7.6

Setup (30%)	8
Management (20%)	8
Reliability (20%)	7
Scalability (10%)	8
Feature Set (10%)	7
Value (10%)	7

COST: IPVPN (2Mbps)$6,500; IPVPN (50 Mbps) $14,500

BOTTOM LINE: The FatPipe IPVPN combines leased lines and Internet connections to provide more bandwidth than a single connection and more reliability. The smaller feature set is suited to companies with networks and capabilities already in place. It comes from a line of proven products and is priced reasonably.

FatPipe

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