

The Sevan WSA and SSL/VPN products share many technologies and even some features. However, these products solve very different problems. This paper compares and contrasts the Sevan WSA and SSL/VPN products and suggests where each is appropriate.

The Sevan WSA and SSL/VPNs share the following:

- delivered as appliances
- use browsers as clients
- provide security through SSL
- provide access control
- support web-based administration
- can be integrated with external user stores

However, the products solve very different problems:

- SSL/VPNs are remote access solutions, like their predecessors: dial-up servers and IPsec VPNs. The SSL/VPN products simply use different technologies to solve the remote access problem. SSL/VPNs are installed at the periphery of the network and control who can access the network. The SSL/VPN products employ rudimentary user management schemes. As a matter of fact, many SSL/VPN installations still rely on RADIUS and ACE servers for user administration, just like their dial-up predecessors.
- The Sevan WSA is a web access and identity management solution. It is installed in front of the web servers and controls access to the web content and applications. Its identity management reflects the demands of today's enterprises by efficiently and securely managing customers, partners, and all employees, whether at work, at home or on the go. The WSA's identity management supports such capabilities as:
 - delegated user administration,
 - federated identity management,
 - common user credentials, and
 - resource-centric management.

The differences between the SSL/VPNs and the Sevan WSA are summarized as:

| Comparisons | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| <i>Feature</i> | <i>SSL/VPNs</i> | <i>Sevan WSA</i> |
| entity protected | “the network” | web content and applications |
| location | the network periphery | the web server |
| user management | centralized, hierarchical | identity management |

The following trends are making these product differences increasingly important:

- It increasingly difficult to define the “inside” and “outside” of the network. Placing a gateway at the “periphery of the network” is increasingly problematic. As a consequence there is much more interest in protecting content and applications.
- Business has adopted web technology: the browser is the client. Applications from ERP to e-mail have web interfaces, which makes web security especially important.
- Businesses are virtualized. The presumption of “employees and everyone else” no longer apply. Providing access to partners, contractors, customers, and the many flavors of employees demands identity management solutions. The Sevan WSA allows you to adopt identity management strategy that

satisfy the needs of your organization.

In conclusion, SSL/VPN products are appropriate for remote network access – controlling who enters your network. The Sevan WSA solves web access control and identity management – who can access your content and applications. It is not an “either-or” proposition: many organization need both network and content control.



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