

Nortel Networks

VPN Client Administrator

Automated provisioning of Contivity VPN client software

Enterprises managing remote access VPN networks are often required to update users' VPN client software as new versions become available or as client parameters change. Handling this process can be costly and time-consuming—especially in networks of hundreds or even thousands of remote VPN users. Nortel Networks VPN Client Administrator reduces this cost by automating the installation and update of Contivity VPN client software.

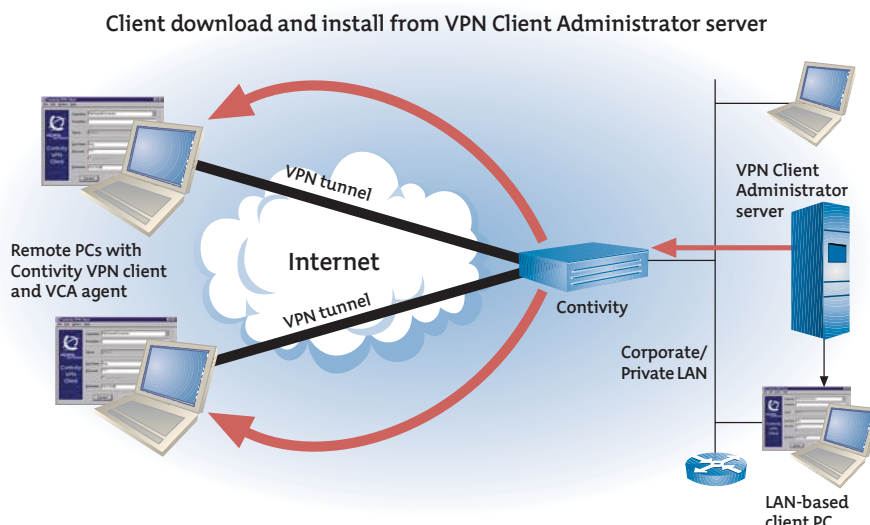
Nortel Networks VPN Client Administrator is the answer for enterprises who want to simplify the task of maintaining and updating Contivity* VPN client software on their users' remote PCs. It can push Contivity VPN client software to remote PCs and automate installation—all through a centrally managed interface. In so doing, it reduces the cost to manage remote clients and can enforce a consistent security policy across the enterprise VPN.

Although Contivity today can detect its VPN client versions and even notify remote users to upgrade, VPN client software still must be manually installed either by the user or the network administrator. Nortel Networks VPN Client Administrator addresses this task, delivering the following benefits:

- Downloads and automates installation of VPN client software images, as well as configuration files

- Eliminates installation errors by end-users updating their own client software
- Reduces network administrator's time and effort to centrally distribute and install new Contivity VPN client versions
- Enforces consistent VPN client software and configurations across large communities of remote VPN users
- Performs reliable updates that can recover from network connection failure as well as operate across NAT and fire-wall boundaries
- Offers a scalable solution that can handle hundreds or even thousands of users

Figure 1. The VPN Client Administrator can push Contivity VPN client software to either remote or LAN-based PCs from a central server.



Nortel Networks VPN Client Administrator upgrade option
 VPN Client Administrator functionality can be upgraded to deliver full PC endpoint security through Sygate Technologies, Inc.'s Secure Enterprise, which protects corporate networks from damage through centrally managed security agents on network endpoints and network access points. For more information, see: www.sygate.com

Centralized solution

Nortel Networks VPN Client Administrator centrally manages the download and installation of VPN client software, including VPN client configuration/policy files. Consisting of server and agent components, the VPN Client Administrator monitors and validates the remote PC's client software against a centrally defined database. If the Contivity VPN client requires update, it can automatically initiate download of client software and/or configuration files. Download can be done over a secure VPN tunnel established by the Contivity VPN client or directly over a LAN connection to the end-user's PC.

Automated installation

Once downloaded, VPN client software and configuration files are automatically installed on the end-user's PC. Installation can be done silently, without intervention of the end-user. The next time the user starts his PC, the correct version of client software and/or configuration files becomes operational.

Or, if preferred, VPN client software can be installed at the convenience of the end-user. A "remind me later" feature allows the end-user to postpone installation of client software. The end-user is reminded again later (after a period of time pre-set by the administrator) to update their client software.

Automatic update of Contivity VPN client software not only simplifies the task of both the Contivity administrator and end-users, it also enforces standardization of the VPN client user base on a given software version and configuration.

Reliable and scalable operation

Because it is a client/agent-based solution, the VPN Client Administrator readily scales to support hundreds or even thousands of remote Contivity VPN client users. If a Contivity VPN client update is interrupted for any reason, the VPN Client Administrator temporarily stores downloaded portions on the PC and automatically resumes update at the next connection time. This

ensures reliable update as well as minimizing bandwidth use and total transfer time. Further, all update operations (incomplete as well as successful) are logged on the central VPN Client Administrator server.

The VPN Client Administrator is further designed to operate across network address translation (NAT) devices and stateful firewalls, allowing seamless updates anywhere within the enterprise network.

Requirements

The VPN Client Administrator runs with any Windows-based Contivity VPN client version and Contivity Secure IP Services Gateway. The VPN Client Administrator server requires a Windows 2000 or Solaris-based systems.



Nortel Networks is an industry leader and innovator focused on transforming how the world communicates and exchanges information. The company is supplying its service provider and enterprise customers with communications technology and infrastructure to enable value-added IP data, voice and multimedia services spanning Wireless Networks, Wireline Networks, Enterprise Networks, and Optical Networks. As a global company, Nortel Networks does business in more than 150 countries. More information about Nortel Networks can be found on the Web at:

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NN106120-103003