Cisco loses ground in security appliance market while Palo Alto booms

Unified threat management and firewall and intrusion detection and prevention proved key growth areas for security appliances in 2015 according to new figures – which also show that Cisco and McAfee lost ground to other market players last year.

IDC's Worldwide Quarterly Security Appliance Tracker shows the security appliance recorded growth in both unit shipments and vendor revenue last year, up 8.1% and 9.9% respectively for full year 2015.

The market recorded revenue of US$10.6 billion, with shipments up to 2.33 million units – a record high.

The unified threat management market saw the biggest growth at 18.5% year on year. IDC says the UTM sub-market has doubled in size over the last five years, reaching record revenue of US$4.85 billion for 2015. Also seeing high growth were the firewall and intrusion detection and prevention sub-markets, with gains of 9.2% and 7.9%. IDC says the VPN and content management markets experienced weakening revenues in 2015, with year on year declines of -17.2% and -2.2% respectively. Asia Pacific, which accounts for 23% of total worldwide revenues, showed the strongest growth for 2015, with a 16.5% revenue growth. Elizabeth Corr, IDC research analyst for security products, says the high growth in many appliance markets is an encouraging sign for IT security appliance vendors.

"With continued talk of going virtual, many customers still desire on-premise hardware solutions," Corr says. Cisco leads the pack when it comes to the top vendors in the market, and saw a 2.6% growth in 2015 to US$1.7 billion. However, that growth wasn't enough to stop it from losing market share to other top five players who – with the exception of McAfee – saw growth of between 10.7% and 49.2%.

Palo Alto Networks was the biggest mover, racking up a 49.2% increase to take 9.6% of the market and third spot. The company took in security appliance revenue of $1.0 billion – up from $681 million in 2014 ◆

UC Browser report shows how cricket reshapes mobile internet users behaviors

With the exciting cricket season drawing to a close, it's worthwhile to take a look back at the cricket fever that swept across the country. Mobile internet is changing the way people access information profoundly, as penetration of smartphones is growing rapidly. During this cricket season, millions of Bangladeshi cricket fans got complete and up-to-date information including live scores, news, photos, videos, live tweets, commentaries, etc. via UC Cricket, an in-app cricket content widget of UC Browser. The huge traffic generated by these users allowed the browser to offer insights into how cricket content is consumed and followed from mobile phones by analyzing this national sport enthusiasm.

This year, UC Browser witnessed millions of users using UC Cricket with over 4.5 million users participating in the cricket themed online games. Talking about this cricket passion, Kenny Ye, GM of Global Markets, Alibaba Mobile Business Group said: "We not only provide complete cricket content to our Bangladeshi users, but also help them better connect with the sport through our web games. We hope to bring the nation together and share the joy of cricket among our users." ◆

Flora Limited has been Awarded "Best HP Corporate Reseller" In Bangladesh" 2015

Bangladeshis save Tk 3.3B in data costs with Opera Mini

Opera Mini saved 10,829TB of data for mobile users in Bangladesh in 2015 thanks to the browser's unique compression technology, according to findings from Opera's "State of the Mobile Web" report. That amount of data is worth ৳3.3 billion BDT (1GB costs ৳300 BDT, on average), equivalent to 42 million USD.

Opera Mini shrinks data to as little as 10% of its original size and is the most popular web browser for Bangladeshis to access the internet from mobile devices. The app is available with a Bengali user interface and also renders websites with Bengali content, a very useful feature for users who are more comfortable browsing in their native language. The report gives insights into the surfing habits of mobile web users in Bangladesh.

Facebook leads mobile-web usage
Eight out of every ten webpages viewed by Opera Mini users from their mobile phones are from Facebook. The site also contributes to 65% of all data that is used by Opera Mini users in Bangladesh. Social networking's popularity is followed by searching with Google and checking out cricket updates from Cricbuzz.

Smartphone users exceed basic phone users
More than half of Opera Mini users in Bangladesh use smartphones. The breakup of mobile OS's is as follows: 53% Android, 45% Java and MRE, 2% iOS and Windows Phone. Samsung and Symphony are the most popular brands of Android smartphones that are used. Nokia is popular among basic Java phone users.

Bangladeshis have a ferocious appetite for local news
An analysis of the top 50 most-visited sites in Opera Mini in Bangladesh shows that a whopping 42% of them are news sites. This high interest in reading local news content is a unique characteristic of Bangladeshi users as compared to mobile users in other Opera Mini markets. Download portals make up 21% of the 50 most-visited sites, and social networking sites 14%.

"Bangladesh is now among our top-five largest markets of Opera Mini users globally. Over the last few years, we have seen fast growth in the number of mobile internet users. Social networking is one of the major reasons that drives usage, but the availability of affordable Android handsets and efforts taken by local mobile operators has also contributed significantly to this growth," says Sunil Kamath, Vice President for South Asia & Southeast Asia at Opera ◆