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University of East Anglia

Title:	**Removal of Checkpoint VPN Service – *discussion paper for IT Forum 21/05/12***
Author:	Pete Andrews
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Issue

In 2009/10 a more flexible VPN solution was brought into service to meet the needs of an increasingly broad range of client devices wishing to make connection into the university. The original VPN solution was left in place to allow for migration of users at their own pace. The utilisation of the old VPN solution is now at a level where it is seen as appropriate to discontinue that solution.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Checkpoint VPN service be withdrawn with immediate effect.

Resource Implications

Removing this service will require the removal of some configuration settings. The technology used for this is heavily linked and dependent on the main university firewall which is set for replacement during the 2012/13 academic year.

Equality and Diversity

This policy has no impact on groups with protected characteristics – especially given that the replacement service has been in place for some time.

Timing of decisions

It is felt that the withdrawal of the service immediately would ensure that there are no legacy dependencies to the replacement of the main campus firewall.

Further Information

Enquiries about the content of the paper should be addressed to Pete Andrews, Head of Networking (p.andrews@uea.ac.uk).

Background

Review of utilisation from beginning of Jan to beginning of June last year showed:
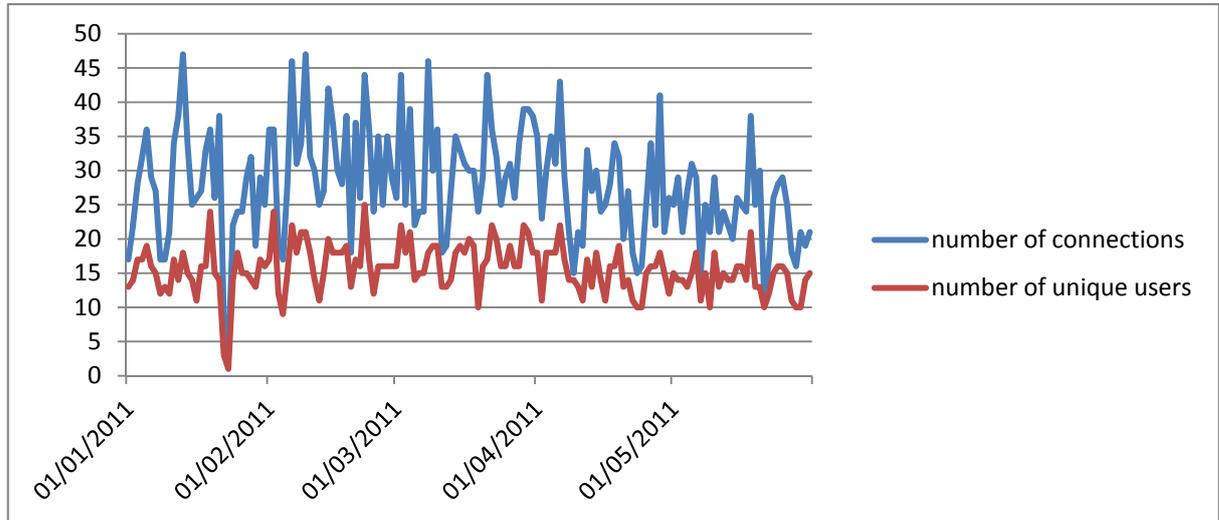
This shows a hard core population of around 15 people using the service on a regular basis.
They were contacted and recommended/assisted to move to the new F5 VPN solution.
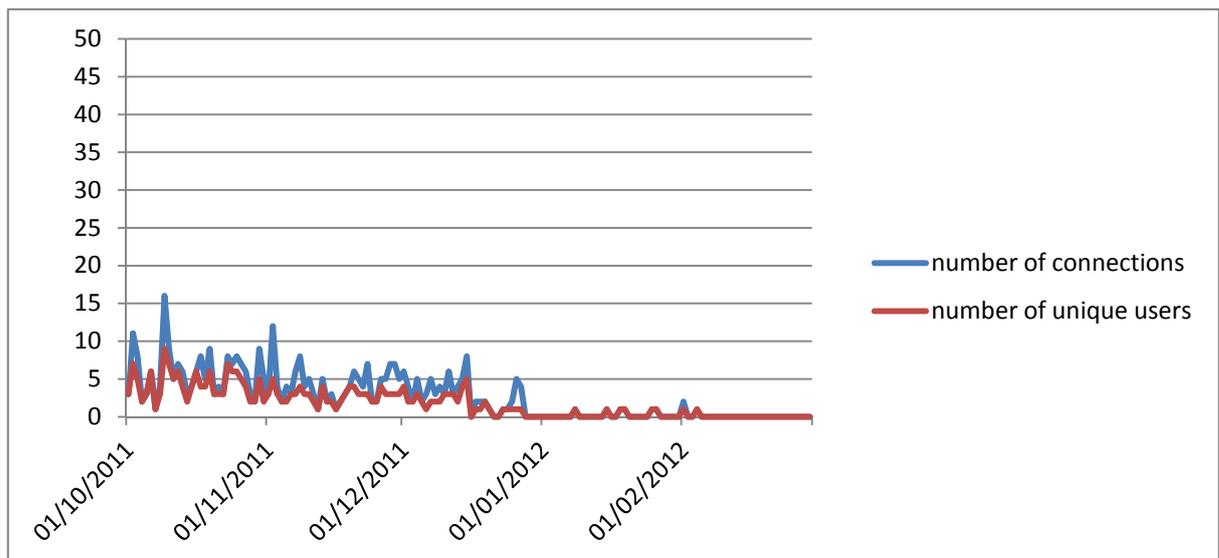
The equivalent stats for the five months to the end of February 2012 show that these users
have now all migrated to the new solution. There have been no connections since early
February.

The cessation of the Checkpoint VPN in favour of the F5 solution is in the networking team
vision for service development.

Discussion

The replacement VPN solution provides a much wider compatible client base that the original
(Checkpoint) solution and is seen as a much more appropriate and flexible means of
delivering this service.