

# ENTISYS



## Citrix Access Gateway

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## Citrix Access Gateway

**“an innovative and superior alternative to IPSec and traditional SSL VPNs.”**

Citrix defines this new product as “an innovative and superior alternative to IPSec and traditional SSL VPNs – a secure, always-on, single point-of-access that is simple and cost-effective to deploy and maintain.”

The acquisition of NET6 was the first step Citrix took in order to get into the hardware market, and to reaffirm itself as a leader Infrastructure Access provider, not just a server-based computing company.

For Entisys customers, the concept of a hardened appliance for providing secure end to end access to Citrix applications and resources, as well as voice and all other protocols, is an ideal central access point for building a secure access infrastructure. Entisys customers rely on Entisys to provide all encompassing, secure by design solutions. The Citrix Access Gateway is a key piece of Entisys access infrastructure designs and solutions.

The main features of the **Citrix Access Gateway** are:

- **Support of up to 2,000 concurrent users at 300 Mbps speed:**  
Each device will support 2000 users at the same time connected to a single device, and it's noticeable that the individual bandwidth management performance is not affected as the number of users increase.
- **Access from any existing firewalls:**  
The usage of port 443 grants access through virtually all firewalls, and changes are not required to your company's DMZ or firewall policy.
- **Support of all protocols including ICA:**  
From Secure Outlook Sync to ICA and RDP Sessions, Access Gateway supports all protocols, applications, and network resources.
- **Access Control List:**  
Most network security systems operate by allowing selective use of services. This Linux-based device uses Access Control List to filter access to services and it has the ability to assign permissions to AD users, AD groups, local users or local groups. Users and Groups can be created locally on the device or LDAP can be used to access AD-based groups and users.
- **Web-based distribution of a lightweight client:**  
Named “Citrix Secure Access Agent”, this feature is easily deployed and updated using the Web-based Access Portal page. Once connected the client interface will be available on the system tray, and desktop alerts will be displayed if changes occur, or if the connection is lost.





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### “Always-On Roaming Technology”

- **Always-On Roaming Technology:**

If connection is lost, Access Agent will automatically try to re-establish your VPN connection. This is a great feature for mobile users, who move to different locations and experience temporary loss of connection.

- **Remote Desktop Sharing:**

In my opinion this is one of the best features in this product. It has a built-in Desktop Sharing capability that works for users connected to the same box only, being a very useful tool for Technical Support and Collaboration.

- **Split Tunneling:**

All VPN traffic is tunneled through the gateway by default. Split tunneling will allow only specific network routes to be tunneled; any other traffic goes to the local PC. The Access Gateway will not write to your local PC routing table, instead, all security and routing decisions are handled by the Secure Access Agent listener within the network stack layer. This feature can be turned “Off”, but it is not recommended.

- **Clientless Kiosk Mode:**

For users who are not at their own computer, and do not have enough permission to install the Secure Access Agent, Citrix Access Gateway has a very innovating solution: Instead of downloading the Agent to the local PC, it will initiate a remote session with the gateway (like a full “RDP” session). From this session you will get a full desktop, but guess what? The desktop is a Linux Desktop (ex.: Gnome, KDE, etc...). You are probably now thinking what good does that make? Well, it gives you the ability to IM, browse the Internet, connect to Metaframe Servers, and extra functionalities. But the best part is that nothing but the session itself will be loaded to the “kiosk” host PC. That means all your data is securely delivered without leaving your organization network.





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### Many Advantages over its Competitors

- **Comparison Chart:**

IP Sec VPN	SSL VPN	Category	Citrix VPN
Yes ✓	No	Desktop-like Network Access	Yes ✓
Yes ✓	No	All Applications Supported	Yes ✓
Yes ✓	No	Peer to peer & real-time apps (voice/video)	Yes ✓
Yes ✓	No	Supports all protocols	Yes ✓
No	Yes ✓	Low Support Costs	Yes ✓
No	Yes ✓	Access through any Firewall	Yes ✓
No	Yes ✓	Hides Network IP Address (Blocks Worms)	Yes ✓
No	Yes ✓	Clientless Kiosk Mode	Yes ✓
No	No	Optimized (UDP) Media & Voice Streaming	Yes ✓
No	No	Always On Functionality	Yes ✓

As you can see on the above chart, Citrix Access Gateway clearly has many advantages over its competitors.

I had the privilege of testing the Access Gateway, and I found it to be an excellent product. Installing and Configuring can be done quickly due to the easy-to-use web-based administration utility. You actually have two options of Administrative console: One is very simple and contains simple common tasks, and the second is a complete “advanced” console that contains all configuration options. For the old-fashioned administrators, you can plug by using a serial port and start a HyperTerminal session where everything can be done via command line.

The pricing of the product is very reasonable. It actually delivers more than its competitors for a lower price. For pricing information, you can access [http://www.net6.com/docs/Net6\\_NA\\_VPN\\_Price\\_Book.pdf](http://www.net6.com/docs/Net6_NA_VPN_Price_Book.pdf). I really recommend that you contact your local Citrix representative or reseller. They are highly trained to address your needs.

In the future, Citrix promises to add all CSG (Citrix Secure Gateway) features to the Access Gateway: 100 percent integrated to Web Interface and compatibility with MetaFrame Secure Access Manager.





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ENTISYS – [www.Entisys.com](http://www.Entisys.com)

Overall, the product is brilliant and it was a brave move for Citrix, not only to release the Access Gateway, but acquire the whole NET6 products family. They are all extremely well developed and they focus on delivering simple solutions for complex problems.

If you would like to learn more please visit:

- <http://www.net6.com> or
- <http://www.citrix.com>

