

Enabling Higher Learning to Continue in the Face of COVID-19

Ariel University

Ariel University was established in 1982 as a regional branch of Bar-Ilan University. In 2004, it became an independent university, with 35 departments for B.A., B.Sc. and B.Arch. studies. It also offers masters degree programs for M.A., M.B.A. and M.Sc. It currently has over 15,000 students, with a branch in Tel Aviv. The University employs over 450 faculty members.

With a strong focus on science and technology, the university maintains approximately 300 leading scientists, both from Israel and around the world, who are involved in teaching and research.



The Challenge - Achieving Unified and Secure Access Control

Amid the chaos of the developing COVID-19 crisis, Ariel University, like many other universities around the world, has been forced to allow their researchers to work from home and their students to study from home. Naturally, before this crisis, the University didn't even think about this need but now, they had to. Without any warning, they needed to find a solution that would enable them to allow their many external users (researchers and students) to access to their internal network from home. The challenges they needed to solve included:

- + Unifying access control for all types of users
- + Providing client-less access to users
- + Ensuring that users authenticate prior to being granted access
- + Keeping users off the network

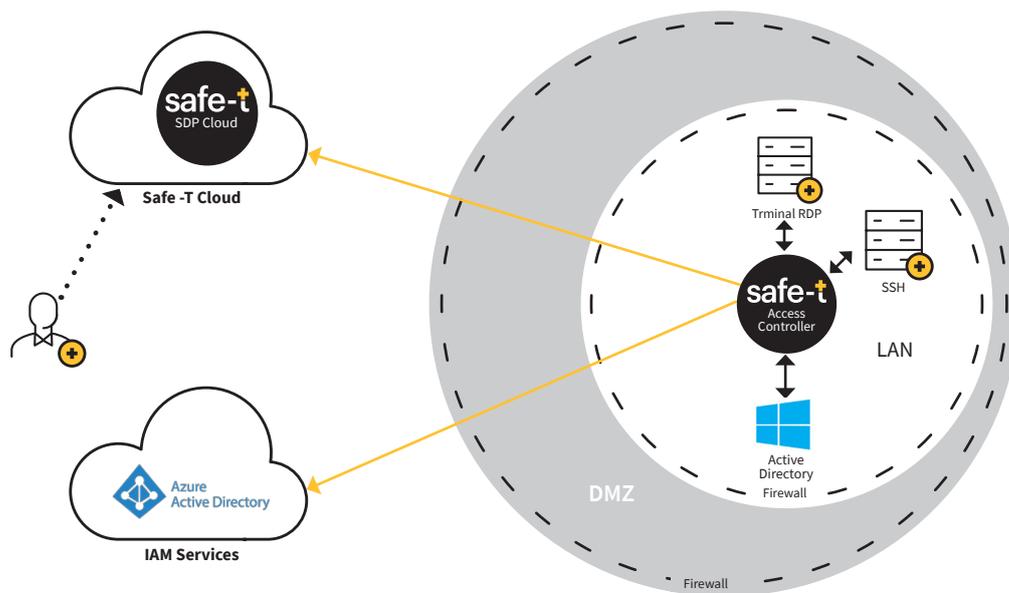
The University segregated its users into three groups: administration, lecturers, and researchers and students. The only group that had the option to connect remotely was administration via VPN. The researchers and the students didn't have this option. In addition, these two segments usually use their own computers (BYOD). Thus, the University needed to find a solution that would not require any installation on the end customer side and would also be scalable, flexible and clientless, to allow researchers and students to get access to the resources they need while staying productive and secure.

The Solution - Creating Secure Access with Safe-T SAA

Ariel University IT department approached their system integrator, Overline SecurITy, looking for a solution that could fit their needs. Only Safe-T's Zero Trust Network Access (ZTNA) solution, Secure Application Access, was robust enough to provide the true secure access they needed, yet simple enough to set up on a moment's notice.

Safe-T's Secure Application Access delivers secure and transparent access for its users, enabling them to access their files using terminal service (RDP). It also implements Safe-T's patented reverse-access (outbound) technology to eliminate the need to open incoming ports in the organization's firewall.

With Safe-T, users are forced to authenticate into resources first. Then, only after authentication has been granted, users are given access to resources. Different policies are easily configured to define the orchestrated authentication steps that each user or group member must perform. Users are authenticated via Azure Active Directory, and 2FA via SMS, with different authentication flows for different scenarios – registration, login, password reset, etc. Thus, backend services are not visible to unauthenticated users and the likelihood of suffering a successful cyber attack is greatly minimized.



Benefits to the Customer:

- + Clientless
- + Fast and easy implementation
- + Easy to use – no user training required
- + Ability to secure specific network segments for researcher/student access
- + No need to waste time setting up VPN lines for researchers and students

With Safe-T, Ariel University is able to maintain both their researcher and student activities by providing users with the secure and simple access they need.

“ We have more than 300 researchers who conduct research in various and important areas. We didn't want this work to be interrupted due to the Coronavirus. We had to find an immediate solution that would allow our researchers to continue their important work. A second need we had was our students (more than 15,000). We didn't want the year to be thrown away, so we wanted to find a solution that would allow them to continue their activity as usual. It was very crucial for us to implement a clientless solution as both the students researchers use their own devices. We approached our system integrator, Overline, who immediately came to the rescue by presenting us with Safe-T's Secure Application Access solution. The solution was implemented very fast and we were up and running within hours. Our researchers and students are now able to work securely, without any change to their regular workflow nor any special training. I can say without a doubt that implementing Safe-T's solution enabled us to continue both our research work, which we consider a very important part of our mission, and student learning. ”

Ariel University CIO

About Safe-T®

Safe-T Data is a provider of Zero Trust Access solutions which mitigate attacks on enterprises' business-critical services and sensitive data, while ensuring uninterrupted business continuity. Safe-T's cloud and on-premises solutions ensure that an organization's access use cases, whether into the organization or from the organization out to the internet, are secured according to the “validate first, access later” philosophy of Zero Trust. This means that no one is trusted by default from inside or outside the network, and verification is required from everyone trying to gain access to resources on the network or in the cloud.

With Safe-T's patented reverse-access technology and proprietary routing technology, organizations of all size and type can secure their data, services, and networks against internal and external threats.

At Safe-T, we empower enterprises to safely migrate to the cloud and enable digital transformation.