



Hello and welcome to SmoothWall. We're glad you've taken time to explore a new secure way of working. This release of SmoothWall is totally fully functional and in this release supports analogue modems which is the most popular method of connecting SoHO workers and homes to the web. ISDN and ADSL are also featuring in our plans for future releases (in fact we have them working now on our development servers) and over the coming weeks and months you will see this being released in our IPSec product release with VPN connectivity featuring very heavily in our builds.

SmoothWall is a project – an ongoing project, and is a reaction to the slow adoption of projects by certain Linux User Groups in the United Kingdom. This project only happened because we had to take it out of the LUG community where the project was festering and had no support which was a great shame. We have since contributed our code and executables via Sourceforge (<http://www.sourceforge.net>) to over 15,000 users in countries all over the world and are currently working on an internationalisation project to address the needs of users in seventeen countries.

SmoothWall is for you the user, we want to hear your feedback, we want to see your ideas and we want you to take and use SmoothWall as a first step towards securing and addressing the way you work online.

Please remember this is a project, although I work for VA Linux Systems and I have funded this entire project out of my own pocket, it remains a group effort. SmoothWall is now fortunate to be staffed by people all over the globe and the team remains to grow. If you want to moan about features you think should be added, think twice and remember how projects evolve...

Lawrence and myself want to see people looking to SmoothWall as an example of what can be achieved by using tools like SourceForge and Freshmeat to help you build and grow OpenSource projects and not just having to "make do" with other peoples work. OpenSource allows you to experiment – there is no such thing as "getting it wrong" just about learning and continuing to add features and functionality to the way we work.

A big thank you go to: Jon Fautley and Tom Ellis who from day one have supported, put up with our moans and been there throughout, to our families who've had to cope with our late night coding sessions and to the following brief list of people who have been supportive in all our efforts !!

"Rasterman", Chris DiBona, Dave Farbrace, John Goebel, Brian Elliott Finley, Drew Streib, Tony Guntharp, Ed Cole, Alan Hourihane, Trevor Parsons, Maggie Meer, Jo Arruda, Dan Shearer, Patrick "Scoop" Lens, Renauld Larsen and the team at VA Europe, Nick Veitch, Brian Proffitt and the guys at LinuxPlanet, Paul Tansom, Paul Rogers, Gary Jones, Dan Cuthbert, Alex Goldstone, Andy Shaw, David Dunham, Mike Kuht, Paul Yudt, Mike Armstrong.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Morrell".

**Richard Morrell – Project Manager**