Interroll moves to a broadband WAN with Silver Peak

Global manufacturing company transitions from MPLS to internet connectivity

Interroll, headquartered in Sant'Antonino, Switzerland, is a leading provider of high-quality core products for internal logistics. When the company transitioned its wide area network (WAN) model to the internet, it required a software-based solution for the WAN that would enable the company to access and send data over the internet in a secure and optimised manner. As such, the company selected and deployed the Silver Peak Unity EdgeConnect software-defined WAN (SD-WAN) solution to improve Microsoft Office 365 and SharePoint Online performance, optimise central access to SAP, centralise the Autodesk Computer Aided Design (CAD) services, and avoid thousands of pounds a month in additional Multiprotocol Label Switching (MPLS) costs.

As a global manufacturing company, Interroll runs an MPLS network connecting 14 production facilities, 19 sales offices and 2,000 employees across Asia-Pacific, North America, and Europe. Engineers and designers in those locations work closely with customers to design and develop new products. Editing and moving CAD files across the MPLS network was essential to that process.

14	19	2,000
PRODUCTION FACILITIES	SALES OFFICES	EMPLOYEES

The internet has opened up many doors for our company, and without Silver Peak that would not have been possible.

— Giuseppe Genovesi, Head of Corporate IT, Interroll.

However, as the company grew, transferring large design files proved increasingly impractical. The IT team wanted to centralise Interroll's application services, including AutoCAD, and work on the improvement of centralised SAP access from far places in private, regional data centres. But that would mean an estimated 5X increase in MPLS bandwidth and a 30 percent increase in costs.

It was not just the economics that made MPLS unsuitable for Interroll, it was also the complexity. The company had embraced Software-as-a-Service (SaaS), specifically Office 365 incorporating SharePoint Online, and Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS) offerings, including Amazon Web Services (AWS) and Microsoft Azure. Directing the cloud traffic across the MPLS backbone was impractical, consuming even more MPLS bandwidth and further impairing cloud performance. "The network became too complicated," said Giuseppe Genovesi, head of corporate IT at Interroll. "A simple change could take weeks to implement. We needed something far more agile and dynamic."

Silver Peak Saves the Day

Interroll found a more agile way to improve SaaS and CAD performance over the internet with Silver Peak. Several WAN companies were considered, but the Silver Peak Unity EdgeConnect SD-WAN solution was selected for its flexibility and performance. With virtual appliances and a subscription-based pricing model Silver Peak enabled Interroll to connect its offices and employees via the most cost-effective source of connectivity available without sacrificing performance. Furthermore, Silver Peak's unique approach to SaaS optimisation not only improved Office 365 performance, but provided Interroll with unprecedented control over their applications traffic.

"With a Silver Peak virtual overlay across our WAN, we were able to connect our offices without a lot of work," continued Genovesi. "With other vendors, SaaS optimisation is a 'one size fits all' solution. Silver Peak lets us determine how our traffic flows so we can, for example, direct our Far East traffic around problematic regions. Since the deployment, Silver Peak has made a huge improvement to our business productivity and we are now able to better service our customers, providing them with a much faster, leaner and more customised approach."

Lessons Learned

With the EdgeConnect SD-WAN solution, Interroll has reshaped how it delivers applications. For example, AutoCAD now performs as well across the internet as it did over MPLS. In addition, the company's Visio drawings in SharePoint can be viewed, opened, and edited quickly and easily, even as parts of the drawings are retrieved from locations across different regions of the network. Office 365 performance is also significantly improved. All of this has been accomplished without the increased bandwidth costs expected from expanding legacy MPLS circuits.

As a result of the company's successful deployment, Interroll can now make the most of internet connectivity, the most

cost-effective source of connectivity available. "The internet has opened up many doors for our company, and without Silver Peak that would not have been possible," concludes Genovesi.

To learn more about Unity EdgeConnect, please click here.

Business Challenges

- MPLS network too expensive
- MPLS too complex for connecting remote sites
- Sluggish enterprise application performance

Technical Challenges

- Poor performing SaaS applications, including Office 365 incorporating SharePoint Online
- Poor performing IaaS offerings, including AWS and Microsoft Azure
- Limited bandwidth

Technical Background

- 14 production facilities across Asia-Pacific, North America and Europe
- 19 global sales offices
- 2,000 employees worldwide

Silver Peak Results

- Secure and optimised internet connectivity enabled in just days
- Improved application performance
- Optimized CAD performance
- Centralized CAD Data
- Increased business productivity due to a leaner, more collaborative production team
- Enhanced customer satisfaction as a result of a faster, leaner and more customised service

Company Address

Silver Peak Systems, Inc
2860 De La Cruz Blvd.
Santa Clara, CA 95050

Phone & Fax

Phone: +1 888 598 7325
Local: +1 408 935 1800

Online

Email: info@silver-peak.com
Website: www.silver-peak.com

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