

Insurance provider improves reliability and reduces risk with enterprise WAN refresh

Summary

As a provider of integrated insurance and healthcare, our customer needed a network refresh to improve reliability and add security and resilience. GDT delivered an enterprise WAN solution that consolidated the company's network architecture and enhanced capabilities across security, performance, management, and more.

The challenge

Aging WAN edge appliances, including firewalls and routers, were undermining the provider's performance and uptime. Furthermore, leaders were unhappy with inconsistent hardware support levels and had experienced firewall coding issues, environmental outages, and unplanned outages during upgrades, all of which negatively impacted the business.

To address these challenges, our customer wanted to refresh network hardware across its 40+ locations, simplify the network architecture, and drive stronger resiliency and security capabilities. In addition, the entire upgrade would need to be accomplished with little to no disruption to the business.

Additional project requirements included:

- Data center and edge firewall upgrades across 40 sites
- Streamlined network and firewall management
- OEM account ownership support

Customer overview

Our customer is an HMO insurance and healthcare provider in the southern U.S. Between office spaces, medical clinics, and a pharmacy, its physical footprint includes around 40 locations, with overly complex network configurations in primary sites.



Solution: Enterprise WAN refresh

Our customer had done business with GDT for several years, and we had established a long-term, trusting partnership. At the outset of the project, the customer team requested that GDT help identify, understand, and navigate the company's key challenges. To do so, we began with a virtualization assessment as well as networking workshops around WAN, wireless, and switching.

With a clear view of the needs to be met, we were able to begin creating a strategy for execution:

- We led with our engineering expertise.
- We identified the customer's business functionality.
- We provided the customer with an outcome-based solution.
- The solution was inclusive of network, security, and professional services.

The client received a functional WAN solution that accounted for hardware consolidation, resiliency, and best-in-class security features with Palo Alto firewalls. Our enterprise networking offering allows the customer to dynamically support multiple WAN uplinks per facility and sustain operations without intervention in the case of a network failure. It also simplifies overly complex network configurations with strategic alterations to some components of its WAN network functionality.

Solution components included:

- Deployment of Palo Alto Networks PA-1400 series firewall appliances at edge sites
- Deployment of management infrastructure
- Migration services to transition the customer from OEM-proprietary protocols to an industry standard BGP

The results

GDT completed the network and firewall refresh within an eight-month timeline. Now, our customer benefits from increased healthcare network resiliency and an effective security transformation.

- Accelerated discovery and reduced risk thanks to pre-existing GDT relationships
- Best-in-class protection through comprehensive security features
- Improved performance due to automatic WAN failover
- Improved agility and efficiency through templates and streamlined management
- Time and costs saved through added operational maturity and streamlined workflows
- Stronger security with ZTP-like new site provisioning and improved visibility and alerting
- Further security enhancements with a platform that can enable additional Palo Alto capabilities as desired

Enterprise networking solutions

From network resiliency to security transformation, [GDT's enterprise network solutions](#) help our customers achieve outcome-based solutions that ensure cost-efficiencies and reduce operational complexity.

[Request a workshop](#)