Civil Engineering Firm Supports Remote Workforce With Secure and Reliable Connectivity

The client

The client is a multifaceted engineering, architectural, environmental, and construction management firm based on the East Coast with locations in seven states across the country and a highly mobile workforce. For more than 100 years, the firm has been instrumental in helping public and private entities in their efforts around clean water, infrastructure improvements, government, and marine facilities.

The challenge: Better support mobile workforce with secure, reliable network connectivity

With roughly 800 employees working from the firm’s corporate headquarters, nearly 20 branch offices, and field locations, the client needed high bandwidth and flexible security to support data-intensive applications. As an engineering firm, the client’s team members frequently need to send and share CAD and other large files that require fast data transfers.

Like most organizations, the client had been increasing its use of cloud resources. They wanted to provide employees with secure and direct internet access, especially for SaaS business applications and generic internet bound traffic, without having to backhaul traffic to their headend. Not only would this improve user experience, but it would free up bandwidth for other needs.
The solution: Implementation of the modern and secure Prisma Access platform

As an existing Palo Alto Networks customer, Insight proposed leveraging Prisma Access™, as this would eliminate the need for new endpoint clients and would be easier to integrate with their existing systems. Each office location was fitted with either a PA-200, PA-220, or PA-800 appliance.

Insight had previously provided the client with support in developing and configuring multiple VPN profiles, gateway setup, multifactor authentication, and other network services.

Insight performed focused discovery, analysis, and solution vetting to confirm Prisma Access would be the ideal solution, followed by migration, piloting, and implementation. We also set up the client with an upgraded version of Panorama™ for network management and helped them integrate with Riverbed to accelerate connections over VPN back to remote sites.

The benefits: More efficient and secure network architecture to enable remote work

With the new solutions and network architecture, the client is now able to intelligently deliver network traffic based on the best path to the destination, optimize bandwidth, and provide increased availability. Now, no matter where an employee is working, the client can ensure connectivity is fast, optimized, and secure.

They no longer need to backhaul internet traffic to the headend using their VPN infrastructure. The client has also increased performance via additional points of presence. Also, roughly 40% of the client’s overall bandwidth at their corporate data center has been offloaded, freeing up capacity for other critical business needs and delivering a vastly improved user experience to their largely remote workforce.

Benefits:

- A more secure, expanded perimeter
- Simple network administration and management
- Increased security for all traffic — data center and cloud

Seamless network enhancement

Reliable connectivity for client’s fully mobile workforce of 800

40% of bandwidth freed up for business-critical functions