

ARUP: BUILDING A RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE

SecureData helps ARUP consolidate its IT systems to improve operational and cost efficiencies.

The Challenge

When starting a new building project, Arup opens an office on site, which remains in place for the duration of the build, often for a number of years. It is paramount that employees have all the resources they need available to them and can start operating from the site straight away in order to work efficiently and meet deadlines. However, different parts of the company were using competing IT technologies from several vendors. As more project sites were built across the globe, it was becoming increasingly complex and difficult to manage the network and it was proving to be very costly for the infrastructure to keep up with user demands. Arup wanted to resolve this by consolidating the various systems into one; having one solution for all. By having a robust infrastructure that was easy to manage, it would bring operational efficiency and cost savings.



The Solution

Arup turned to SecureData, the independent IT security service provider, who it saw as a trusted consultant. SecureData reviewed the situation and recommended two innovative solutions. Firstly, SecureData deployed Application Delivery Network provider F5's BIG-IP Local Traffic Manager (LTM). The application delivery controller allows the load balancing of multiple servers. It automatically points the user at the correct server depending on location, loading and availability. This turns the network into an agile infrastructure for application delivery – improving speed, and providing security and resilience. This would give Arup the flexibility and control to add applications and servers easily, as well as eliminate downtime and improve application performance.

The second solution to be deployed by SecureData was F5's Big-IP Global Traffic Manager (GTM), which directs users to resources around the world depending on availability and location. It works by distributing user application requests based on business policies, data centre and network conditions, user location, and application performance to ensure high availability of global application. This gives holistic control of Arup's global traffic to ensure better application performance, less downtime and simplified management. If a data centre goes down, it will automatically look for another and re-direct users to ensure that resources and support are always available. This enables Arup to optimise its application delivery across its globally distributed data centres as well as manage its complex distributed network simply and efficiently.

The Implementation

Phase one of the implementation kicked off in mid-2009 which saw the initial evaluation right through to production. The implementation began in September of that year and saw the migration of the incumbent solution over to F5's through a phased approach which took approximately nine months to complete. Phase two saw the process become automated.

Arup is currently trialling the acceleration of the solution through various methods that speed up application performance ensuring that the users, wherever they are, get the same performance and experience even if it was a remote or local connection. Trial results have been good and Arup is now getting additional services from SecureData such as technical updates on its hardware.

Arup continues to leverage investment and is keen to begin trials to integrate functionality between F5 and other onpremise systems to automatically spin-up and –down servers automatically, providing fully 'elastic' server capacity when needed most, instead of investing in additional, seldom-used hardware.



The Benefits

By streamlining application delivery, Arup is provided with an agile and flexible infrastructure. This enables the company to obtain all the functionality it needs to optimise performance. This reduces the server load, bandwidth usage and related costs. Applications and data are secured and can be accelerated up to three times. Arup now has full control of application traffic to handle its ever-growing business, infrastructure and application demands.

"Information Technology is moving at an unprecedented rate, we expect our trusted partners to be able to provide expert advice on-demand; technology solutions that are robust and reliable; pricing that is costeffective, and all backed up by professional support services. We believe that SecureData is able to meet our stringent requirements and we are happy to count them as a trusted partner."

Mark Judge, Global IT Operations Manager, Arup

CASE STUDY

"A growing company like Arup creates significant challenges for its IT infrastructure, particularly with temporary site offices springing up across the world. It is therefore even more important for businesses like this to consolidate their systems so that operational effectiveness can be improved and cost savings made."

Jody Presland, Enterprise Account Manager, SecureData



ABOUT SECUREDATA

SecureData is a complete cybersecurity service provider with a proactive approach. The company specialises in providing network security, managed services and solutions for customers and believes in looking beyond point technology solutions to ensure business IT infrastructure is both secure and available.

It minimises business disruption for clients and offers the complete security spectrum from assessing risk to detecting threats, protecting valuable assets and responding to breaches when they happen.

Operating from its UK based Security Operations Centre; SecureData offers manned support on a 24 x 7 x 365 basis, with its own real-time monitoring platform and contextual threat intelligence service, SecureData GI tailored to suit both small businesses and large corporate enterprises alike.

SecureData works with the latest technology innovations from a number of partners to ensure customers have uniquely designed solutions and support 24/7, 365 days a year. SecureData brings its technical expertise and integrity to approximately 2,000 managed devices, working with over 450 customers.

For more information, visit www.secdata.com

IN COLLABORATION WITH ARUP

Arup is a global professional services firm headquartered in London, which provides engineering, design, planning, project management and consulting services for all aspects of the built environment. Arup's most notable work includes the structural design of Sydney Opera House, the Centre Pompidou in Paris and its work around the 2008 Olympics in Beijing. Founded in 1946, the company is now present in Africa, the Americas, Australasia, East Asia, Europe and the Middle East and has over 10,000 staff based in 92 offices in 37 countries.

For more information, visit www.arup.com

CASE STUDY