

Filtrona Extrusion

Filtrona Extrusion, Inc., a global manufacturer of various plastic products, offers its customers the advantage of many years of technical and engineering expertise. A market leader in various product lines, Filtrona Extrusion serves the medical, POP, aviation, traffic, lighting, fencing and custom plastic industries.

Filtrona Extrusion is part of the Filtrona plc family of companies. For more information about Filtrona Extrusion capabilities, call +1 (404) 564-8560 or visit www.filtronaextrusion.com.

The Situation

Filtrona Extrusion embarked on redesigning its enterprise network to improve performance and meet the future needs of its business. Because all of Filtrona Extrusion's business processes rely on the network, the company set out to find a provider who would work closely with internal IT to deliver a "bulletproof" or fully redundant network with automatic failover.

To ensure an absolutely foolproof fail over trigger for any network routing issue, Filtrona Extrusion expressed its preference to implement GRE tunnels instead of the more conventional BGP routing method. Virtela designed the managed VPN with redundant GRE tunnels with OSPF between critical hub sites, enabling the ability to automatically re-route traffic over an alternate route in the event of network congestion or failure on the primary path. The network load balances traffic between two network providers, with the Virtela managed network carrying mission-critical data and applications traffic (such as ERP) and another provider handling Internet, voice and video communications.

The collaborative effort resulted in two networks configured to work in tandem to ensure that if one encounters difficulty passing traffic, the traffic is automatically re-routed to the other. All sites were implemented within six months and the company has experienced the beneficial results from the design.

"Just last week we lost a circuit in Mexico, and traffic failed over as designed without any impact to users," said Corporate Director of IT Jeff White. "We're very pleased with how the routing worked out."

"Our entire business runs over this network – from building products and taking orders to shipping and receiving – and we required a resilient design. Virtela came to the table with resources and expertise to work with me to deliver a creative network solution that I would not have otherwise thought I could outsource."

- Jeff White, Corporate Director of IT, Filtrona Extrusion



Industry Focus

One of the largest extruders of plastic profiles, sheet and specialty tubes in the United States

Size

HQ in Atlanta, Georgia with offices in Illinois, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Washington, and Mexico

A business unit of Filtrona PLC in the UK, which operates in 23 countries and employs 5,500

Challenges

Design, implement and manage a fully redundant & resilient North American network to provide efficient and reliable network communications

Solution

Virtela Managed Private VPN Network Service & RMM

Bottom Line

A managed network implemented within six months featuring a fault tolerant design that enables the primary network to automatically failover to a second network in the event of network performance issues

Virtela Solution

Virtela's relationships with 250+ access vendors and its Global Service FabricSM infrastructure allowed Virtela to aggregate and integrate the best access and backbone infrastructures around the world into its Private VPN network solution. Leveraging this network infrastructure, Virtela designed and implemented a North American network to meet Filtrona Extrusion's specific needs:

Provide high performance network linking locations across U.S. and Mexico	By leveraging a creative network design inspired by the customer, Virtela was able to deliver a fully meshed, higher performance network that doubled the bandwidth. In the event of any outage on a primary circuit, the network failovers within 30 seconds without any customer impact.
Accommodate alternate network provider in design	Virtela's flexibility to incorporate and manage a third-party network provider in parallel with the Virtela network resulted in 99.995% availability and a redundant network design. It also enabled the secondary network to support large bandwidth services such as HD videoconferencing without impacting mission-critical applications.
Provide ongoing expertise & support	Filtrona Extrusion benefits from Virtela's flexibility and use of industry best practices in network engineering as network needs change and expand.
Fully managed solution with insight	Virtela's managed Private VPN network solution allows Filtrona Extrusion's IT staff to stay focused on the strategic activities of the business. VirtelaView, Virtela's Web-based portal, provides real-time visibility and statistics on the network.

The Bottom Line

Virtela discussed the requirements with Filtrona Extrusion in detail and designed and implemented a complete Private VPN network to meet the company's stringent requirements. It includes a primary Virtela managed network and second provider network, leveraging redundant GRE tunnels to provide automatic failover between networks. Results:

- Fully redundant, multi-carrier network delivers high resiliency
- Efficient design eliminates multiple entry points into the network and consolidates managed firewalls
- Expert management via Virtela's 24x7 Global Operations Center
- Virtela's engineering expertise applied on an ongoing basis as network evolves, enabling IT to increase its focus on the business

Filtrona Extrusion's network solution is one example of Virtela's capability to leverage its global network and industry experience to deliver a targeted solution to meet a customer's very specific need.

Who We Are

Virtela, the world's largest independent managed services company, offers award-winning managed services including MPLS and IP-based Virtual Private Networks (VPNs), Security, Application Acceleration, Remote Access, and WAN/LAN Device Monitoring and Management, to some of the most competitive multinational companies in the world. Offering services in 190 countries, Virtela integrates and manages best-of-breed service providers through partnerships with 500+ carriers, to address the unique needs of its customers.

Virtela is headquartered in Denver, Colorado, with Global Network and Security Operations Centers in Denver; Mumbai, India; and Manila, Philippines. For more information, please visit www.virtela.net.