MinterEllison

Replacing legacy infrastructure with state-of-the-art networking technology

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Overview

As part of their digital transformation strategy and commitment to innovation, multinational legal and consulting firm MinterEllison decided to completely overhaul their wide area network (WAN) when existing infrastructure reached end of life.

After selecting Software-Defined WAN (SD-WAN) from global leader Silver Peak, MinterEllison engaged ICT Networks to manage full testing, design and deployment of the solution for their Australian and overseas offices.

REPLACING LEGACY INFRASTRUCTURE WITH STATE-OF-THE-ART NETWORKING TECHNOLOGY

Established in Sydney in 1827, MinterEllison is an esteemed legal and consulting practice that is home to more than 2,300+ staff and partners.

The company is headquartered in Australia and has offices in every state and territory, as well as overseas in the UK, New Zealand, Hong Kong, mainland China, and Mongolia.

As MinterEllison's edge routing and WAN acceleration infrastructure was approaching end of life in 2017, the organisation decided to seek a solution that would align with their digital transformation and cloud-first strategy.

Nathan Macgregor, Head of IT Infrastructure for MinterEllison, says their primary motivation was to find a cloud solution that was:

- agile
- efficient
- easy to manage
- resilient
- cost-effective
- user friendly

"We chose Silver Peak because they are specialists in SD-WAN. Their technology is seamless and cost-effective, and we wanted the optimisation and acceleration Silver Peak is known for," says Nathan. "They developed SD-WAN from scratch – it wasn't adapted or acquired."

SD-WAN is networking technology that learns and adapts to the needs of your business, and:

- virtualises routing
- centralises control of applications, including security
- controls bandwidth speeds based on user protocols or groups
- facilitates connection to apps via the cloud to free up bandwidth
- mitigates downtime and supports scalability

It also enables a multi-cloud set up so companies can leverage the best tools and services available from multiple application cloud providers.

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ICT NETWORKS MANAGES A MULTINATIONAL ROLL OUT OF SD-WAN

As their strategic partner, Silver Peak recommended ICT Networks to manage the transition to and implementation of SD-WAN.

ICT Networks' engineering team kicked off the project by replicating MinterEllison's network at their North Sydney testing lab – a process Nathan believes was invaluable.

"We wanted to ensure that our network traffic engineering remained consistent with the new solution so testing was crucial. ICT Networks' testing facility gave us the ability to set up a full network in premise. They invited us to watch and review the testing, and go through failure scenarios for anything that could go wrong. It really helped build our confidence that the solution was going to work as designed."

Once testing was complete, ICT Networks rolled out the new networking infrastructure to MinterEllison's offices in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Canberra, Adelaide, Darwin and Perth. This was followed by remote deployment of the solution to MinterEllison's international offices.

"The team at ICT Networks was very accommodating," says Nathan. "They went above and beyond during the design and test phases, and worked long hours on site for the cutover."

By completion, ICT Networks had delivered:

- national and international SD-WAN roll out
- on site and remote configuration
- design implementation
- documentation

David Jang, Account Director for ICT Networks, says "It was a really strong collaborative effort between MinterEllison, ICT Networks and Silver Peak. We really enjoyed working with a company that has such a strong dedication to innovation."

MORE CONTROL, CHOICE, AGILITY AND SECURITY WITH SD-WAN

MinterEllison's SD-WAN infrastructure has provided a suite of benefits to the company, and at a much smaller cost than managing traditional routing infrastructure.

"Now the network is stable and we're able to make easy changes on the fly," says Nathan. "It's a simple click and off you go. It's also easy to support and manage, and we're reaping greater cost savings due to the merging of appliances. Typically a network software upgrade that would have taken weeks to complete now only takes a matter of hours.

"With the fabric in place we are looking to take full advantage of it, as there are huge business benefits in using more cloud-based applications for our day to day for better performance and productivity."

"ICT Networks was involved in the full suite of our SD-WAN roll out. It was great to be an early adopter of this new technology, and we really appreciate ICT Networks' flexibility and commitment to helping us achieve it."