Zscaler Protects GHD's SD-WAN Deployment

GHD

www.ghd.com

Location: Australia

Industry: Professional Services

User Count: 12,000

Zscaler Products:
Internet Security Platform, Cloud Sandbox

GHD is one of the world's leading professional services companies operating in the global markets of water, energy and resources, environment, property and buildings, and transportation. GHD provides engineering, architecture, environmental and construction services to private and public-sector clients across five continents – Asia, Australia, Europe, North and South America – and the Pacific region and employs more than 12,000 people in 240+ offices.

The challenge

GHD found itself in a very common position for many companies today. It's information and communications technology (ICT) environment had become incredibly complex. And, with an increasing reliance on internet services, the GHD Information Security team was facing some difficult challenges.

Those challenges intensified after a large acquisition, which brought 100 remote offices in North America into the GHD family. These smaller offices consisted of 10 or fewer employees each and introduced the challenge of connecting these offices within its legacy network.

"Our existing infrastructure solutions did not scale to that size of an office very well or very cost-effectively," said Randy Taylor, Global Network Manager, GHD.

And, with less than five percent of its network traffic being used for voice and video collaboration, its legacy MLPS-based solution was no longer an ideal fit. GHD needed to find a way to securely route internet-bound traffic locally.

> **For every data center, office and employee, we needed to provide secure, reliable and scalable access to the internet regardless of their location.**
>
> – **Daryl Harding**
>   Global Information
>   Security Manager
>   **GHD**

Protecting branch and remote offices

Following extensive research, GHD selected Riverbed's SteelConnect SD-WAN solution.

SD-WAN essentially gave GHD the ability to add offices anywhere there was an internet connection. "With this change, we expect OPEX savings of 70-80 percent over the next five years," Mr. Taylor said. Now, GHD had the task of providing SD-WAN security across all their locations.

"Previously, this had meant deploying physical security appliances at each location and relying on security layers not specifically designed to protect systems against increasingly advanced internet-based threats."

As cyberthreats became more sophisticated, GHD's existing protections proved ineffective. "We were seeing an increase in the number of laptops returning from the field in an infected or insecure state," Mr. Harding said. "We needed to find a way to ensure these devices would remain protected at all times regardless of where they were being used."

GHD's Information Security team recognized that a cloud-based security solution would be the most appropriate security architecture for the company. After a detailed review of a number of potential vendors, Zscaler was chosen to monitor and manage all internet-based traffic.

"The fact that Zscaler is a pure-play cloud service that made it such a good match for us," Mr. Harding said. "It meant we could avoid the need to deploy traditional hardware-based solutions in each office or project sites. This significantly reduced deployment time, total cost of ownership and our risk exposure to internet-based threats."

GHD AND ZSCALER WINS

Identical protection for users at all locations Zscaler provides the same consistent level of security for all users at all locations, including native SSL inspection and Cloud Sandbox

Reduced costs and complexity With Zscaler and Riverbed, GHD expects to achieve 70-80 percent OpEx savings with local breakouts that help the organization eliminate the cost and complexity of security appliances and traditional routing operations

Improved user experience Zscaler and Riverbed SD-WAN deliver fast and secure access to cloud applications and services

Business agility The Zscaler and Riverbed SD-WAN solution enables greater business agility and allowed GHD to reduce the time required to deploy and manage additional locations.

Seamless security for all

GHD required comprehensive and intelligent network security that met the needs of some of its most security-conscious clients.

"Being that GHD is a company that provides service to many sensitive organizations globally, network security is very key to objectives. Without the use of Zscaler cybersecurity, we would not have the success that we have today with SD-WAN technology," said Mr. Taylor.

All internet traffic for GHD was now being routed to the nearest Zscaler node from Riverbed SteelConnect SD-WAN. Securing traffic with Zscaler allowed for a consistent security policy at all offices, regardless of location. This meant that all GHD employees were now better protected from web-based threats and were able to use the internet with the confidence that the appropriate protections were in place at all times.

In addition, GHD uses Zscaler Cloud Sandbox to provide further protection from threats not detectable using traditional security techniques. This has allowed the Information Security team to be confident of maintaining an appropriate level of security while broadening access to internet-based services.

GHD's Information Security team was impressed by the ease with which existing security policies could be mapped to the Zscaler service. And, since Zscaler handled day-to-day platform maintenance and management of the solution, the GHD Information Security team only needed to monitor any exceptions that occurred, reducing the team's workload.

Secure SD-WAN Solution

With Riverbed SteelConnect and Zscaler, GHD deployed a secure SD-WAN solution that simplified branch office IT by eliminating the complexity of security appliances and traditional routing operations.

SD-WAN enables GHD's outbound traffic to flow across the best available path, including low-cost internet connections and 4G/5G, to quickly connect users to the internet and cloud applications. Zscaler, enables GHD to inspect, secure, and protect traffic across all locations and provide identical protection for all users, wherever they connect.

In the end, Zscaler and Riverbed helped GHD reduce the cost and complexity of routing traffic locally and securely, simplify branch operations, and scale to meet their unique business needs.

About Zscaler

Zscaler enables the world's leading organizations to securely transform their networks and applications for a mobile and cloud-first world. Its flagship services, Zscaler Internet Access™ and Zscaler Private Access™, create fast, secure connections between users and applications, regardless of device, location, or network. Zscaler services are 100% cloud delivered and offer the simplicity, enhanced security, and improved user experience that traditional appliances or hybrid solutions are unable to match. Used in more than 185 countries, Zscaler operates a multi-tenant, distributed cloud security platform that protects thousands of customers from cyberattacks and data loss. Learn more at **zscaler.com** or follow us on Twitter **@zscaler**.