

A Construction Company's Move to the Cloud



Overview

J. F. Shea is one of the oldest and largest privately held construction companies in the United States. The company builds homes and commercial facilities and also manages commercial buildings. In addition, divisions of the company provide construction materials, foundation construction and machinery, and venture capital. J.F. Shea currently has four divisions: J. F. Shea Construction, J. F. Shea Redding, Shea Homes and Shea Properties. Famous projects include the Golden Gate Bridge, the Hoover Dam and the Bay Area Rapid Transit System (BART).

Website: www.jfshea.com
 Industry: Real Estate and Construction

The Challenge

Always-on Web content filtering across six branches of a company, without restricting key employees from accessing social media, video sharing and news websites.

The Challenge

An Appliance-Based Set-up

J.F. Shea has two large datacenters and six smaller ones, with 200 endpoints that connect to the network by VPN. The network supports 1,300 employees and roughly the same number of workstations.

For the past 15 years, J.F. Shea used an appliance from M86 — the R3000 — as a company-wide Internet filter. All traffic was “bottlenecked” into the company’s main datacenter, in Irvine, Calif. When one employee would access a bandwidth heavy site, or download a large file, it would affect everyone else on the network.

The Solution

Deploying OpenDNS Professional across six locations; setting up Block Page Bypass so employees in sales and marketing can access web content blocked to the rest of the company.

Changing Network Infrastructure

Every year, J. F. Shea saw an increasing amount of bandwidth used on their network. Every year, they purchased additional bandwidth. However, with the economic downturn, Senior Network Engineer Francis Vergel de Dios decided to take a different approach. “Instead of bottlenecking everything into the main datacenter, we decided to allow Internet connections from our branch offices,” he explained. Each J.F. Shea office had its own Internet connection — from Comcast or AT&T, for example — whichever made sense for a given office.

OpenDNS Professional & Real Estate and Construction

When building and managing multiple sites, it doesn't make sense to purchase an appliance for each one. OpenDNS is cloud-based, and seamlessly scales from one location to 1,000. There's no need for on-site management, since changes can be made and deployed from anywhere there's Internet access.

While giving each of six branches their own Internet connection solved one problem, it created a new one. “The problem is the M86 device that we used, is that it's actually physical hardware,” said Vergel de Dios. “We would actually need to buy one for every single location. That's not what we wanted to do; that's definitely not cost effective for us.”

The Solution

J.F. Shea knew that OpenDNS Professional was the perfect solution for their new network set-up. With no appliance to purchase and maintain, OpenDNS was simple for Vergel de Dios to deploy across the entire organization, saving J.F. Shea both time and money.

How It Works

As a Web content filtering solution, OpenDNS Professional offers 57 categories to choose from. Blocking access to websites in P2P/filesharing and video streaming categories can help reduce bandwidth on a network. Administrators can also block a variety of websites that are inappropriate, including adult, pornographic, drug-related, weapons and general timewasters.

Special Access for Specific Departments

One of the benefits of OpenDNS Professional is that specific websites can be accessed by specific employees thanks to the Block Page Bypass feature. Administrators generate a one-time use code and distribute it to employees as needed. When an employee reaches the block page, they can enter the bypass code to access the website.

At J.F. Shea, employees in the sales and marketing groups often need access to Facebook, YouTube and other similar sites. With the Block Page Bypass feature, Vergel de Dios can easily generate bypass codes and distribute them to specific employees. Codes can be set to expire within a given timeframe — as soon as a day later, or up to a year.

Choosing OpenDNS saved J.F. Shea almost \$25,000 this year. Additionally, the simplicity of OpenDNS Professional over an appliance-based option means that Vergel de Dios is saving more than money for the organization — he's saving hours of work every week for his team as well.

About OpenDNS

OpenDNS is the world's leading provider of Internet navigation and security services that make networks safer, faster, smarter and more reliable. Through DNS resolution, cloud-based Web content filtering and security services, OpenDNS empowers millions of households, schools and businesses to control how users navigate the Internet on their network, while dramatically increasing the network's overall performance and reliability.

For more information please visit:
www.opendns.com



OpenDNS is the world's leading provider of Internet security and DNS services, enabling the world to connect to the Internet with confidence on any device, anywhere, anytime. OpenDNS provides millions of businesses, schools and households with a safer, faster and more intelligent Internet experience by protecting them from malicious Web threats and providing them control over how users navigate the Internet while dramatically increasing the network's overall performance and reliability. **For more information about OpenDNS, please visit:** www.opendns.com.