



# cleverDome and NetFoundry

Powering the next generation of  
cybersecurity for Financial Services

CASE STUDY





## The challenge

Today's cybercriminals are sophisticated, highly motivated and well organized. Armed with the latest technology, they are able to hit prominent and well-guarded targets anywhere in the world, disrupting operations, stealing money or confidential information and planting malicious software into computer networks.

Companies in the financial services sector are particularly vulnerable, and have suffered some of the highest profile attacks of recent years. Banks are all busy implementing security fixes and deploying appropriate software to guard their systems and networks. But they can only ever tackle part of the challenge in this way, particularly if any of their communications with customers travel over the unsecured public Internet. The other aspect of the cybersecurity challenge is that any measure designed to shut out criminals is likely to have the side effect of inhibiting legitimate activity by slowing down processes.

What financial services players need is the 'holy grail' of financial cybersecurity: an end-to-end, software-only solution that authenticates, authorizes and encrypts data before it is sent over the Internet, with all legitimate parties in the transaction verified as such automatically. A perfect solution would also satisfy any regulator looking for transparency, and not add friction that gets in the way of the speed and efficiency of a transaction. It would also scale easily, be cost effective, and flexible enough to meet changing market needs.

## The solution

CleverDome has developed a solution that meets this multi-layered challenge.

CleverDome combines secure communications software with end point protection which, when packaged with the due diligence of all participating players, is able to securely support transactions. It works by sending data over encrypted dark connections, directing it along the path with the lowest available latency.

CleverDome is being billed as the next generation of cybersecurity. Unlike many cybersecurity solutions on the market, it is not focused around solving yesterday's problems, but is designed from the ground up to work in the cloud-centric world that is powering the commerce of today and the future. As enterprises move workloads into the cloud and look to virtualize and software-enable their operations, they need security that matches. CleverDome does this by taking confidential data off the open internet and "under the Dome."<sup>™</sup>

CleverDome built this solution using the NetFoundry platform. NetFoundry enables programmable networking for the cloud era, giving businesses the power to instantly and securely connect distributed applications across any set of devices, networks and clouds. The NetFoundry platform enables organizations to create instant, highly secure, application-specific networks at scale without requiring specific hardware, service providers, VPNs

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or private circuits. In this way, NetFoundry is delivering a new level of network agility to businesses embracing digital transformation and modern application practices.

NetFoundry's multi-cloud and SaaS optimization permits any participant in the cleverDome initiative to offer their financial apps from the cloud, using NetFoundry software gateways available in leading cloud marketplaces such as Azure, Azure Stack, AWS and AWS IoT. In the cleverDome solution, NetFoundry provides micro-segmented, zero trust security and isolation to each party in a transaction.

## How cleverDome works

What makes cleverDome different is that everyone using it operates within what is called a Software Defined Perimeter (SDP), a dark network that uses the existing infrastructure of the internet, but only allows known, authenticated devices and participants to interact with the network. Independent Analyst Firm Gartner is predicting that most enterprises will replace today's VPN connections with SDPs within five years.<sup>1</sup>

By ensuring all devices, systems, and vendors have completed due diligence and comply with minimum cybersecurity standards, those operating within the SDP can exchange information safely, without risk of intrusion from the outside world. The key to an SDP system like cleverDome is that all of the parties involved must themselves be part of the SDP. At its launch in 2017, cleverDome incorporated a variety of partners from different parts of the financial services value chain – technology vendors, broker-dealers, RIAs, and custody and clearing firms. The initial names were United Planners Financial Services, Redtail CRM, Orion Advisor Services, Riskalyze and Entreda. CleverDome recently announced that TD Ameritrade Institutional has joined cleverDome, and technology vendors using its Veo One brokerage and custody platform can now sign up to come “under the Dome.”

“Meeting regulatory compliance with a fully secure network for financial communications, including personal data of consumers, has been a great challenge across the financial services spectrum,” commented Aaron Spradlin, co-founder and CEO of cleverDome. “We created a community-based platform to protect confidential client information in the cloud, and have changed the game with a highly effective solution that is proven with leading financial services firms. We leverage NetFoundry's platform to revolutionize the way these firms connect with each other and their clients efficiently, quickly and securely.”

“It was eye opening to see the speed and effectiveness at which cleverDome was able to use the NetFoundry platform, software and APIs to provide such a powerful solution,” said Galeal Zino, CEO of NetFoundry. “CleverDome's solution provides the financial services community with agility, control and security, freeing them from the shackles of hardware and private circuits, and enabling them to meet compliance requirements.”

## About NetFoundry

NetFoundry is the leader in Application-Specific Networking, enabling businesses to instantly connect distributed applications in any cloud, on any device, anywhere with unprecedented simplicity. The NetFoundry platform enables businesses to securely and reliably connect applications without the constraints of VPNs, custom hardware and private circuits. NetFoundry is headquartered in Charlotte, North Carolina, with offices in San Francisco, New York, London, Bangalore and Singapore.

<sup>1</sup> Gartner, *It's Time to Isolate Your Services From the Internet Cesspool*, 30 September 2016

Address —  
101 S Tryon Street, Suite 2700  
Charlotte, NC 28280

Telephone —  
+1.855.284.2007

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