CERM embeds NetFoundry's zero trust networking to scale and accelerate solution deployments

Network-as-Code delivers new levels of agility and enhances security

CASE STUDY

CERM

CERM's Management Information System (MIS) software helps Label and Packaging Printing Vendors to automate operations and digitize their business. CERM MIS interconnects all the business and production components and functions of a print shop including CRM, pre-press and print processes, finishing, orders and billing, and supply chain logistics.

CERM needed a globally capable and highly scalable networking solution to help accelerate deployments and reduce network management complexity. In addition, CERM was also about to embark on a strategic initiative to transition their software from a private data center to public clouds. Any solution needed to be future proof. NetFoundry's zero trust Network-as-a-Service (Naas) Platform was exactly the solution they needed.

CERM software is deployed as eight integrated modules with a dedicated edge software appliance located at customer sites. The solution digitizes workflows and automates production so CERM's customers gain competitive advantages by reducing cycle times, costs of materials, while increasing productivity with automation. For CERM's solutions to be effective, it is critical that their edge software appliances are securely connected and communicating with their software components running in public clouds.

CERM operates across the globe. As CERM began to scale their deployments at customer locations around the world, they experienced a significant increase in deployment complexity. Networking complexities surfaced as CERM expanded the use of a traditional VPN to connect their edge appliances to their applications running in public clouds.

As the number of VPN circuits expanded, CERM recognized the legacy technology could not support their need to drive innovation and automation. The network could not scale to meet the demands of CERM's customers. Network management was becoming unwieldy and was constraining CERM's abilities to be responsive to customer needs. CERM was also experiencing network performance issues that had the potential to negatively impact its customers' business operations.

Embedding NetFoundry addresses complexity and accelerates deployments

With NetFoundry's networking-as-code solution, open SDKs and API forward architecture, CERM embedded NetFoundry's software only, cloud-native zero trust connectivity directly into their edge environment. The combination of NetFoundry deployed inside the CERM edge appliance with Ansible® provisioning and configuration and Jenkins® playbooks running their CI/CD pipelines, CERM automated their production deployments.

Embedding secure provisioning, management, and networking into CERM's solutions, as pure software, means that CERM and their customers get security, agility, reliability and unparalleled scalability without being handcuffed to network hardware or difficult to manage network circuitry. With NetFoundry, CERM is no longer incurring the expense and complexity of managing network hardware.

Contact us   Share   ✉ 🐦 f in   **For more information, visit us at www.netfoundry.io**
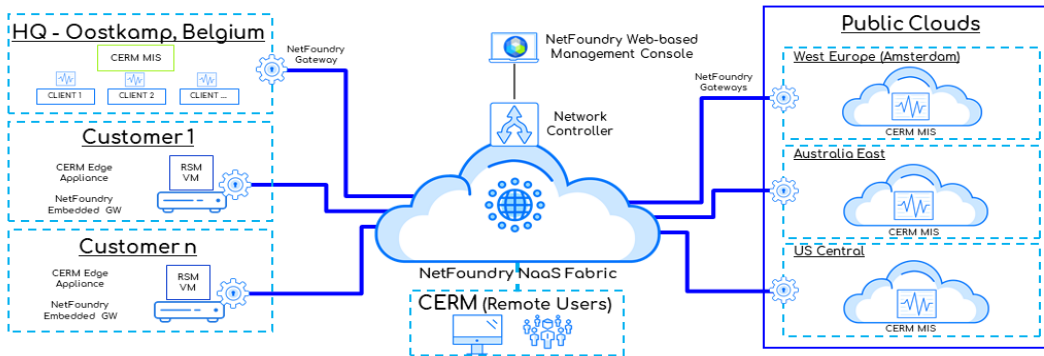
Now, CERM has a fully programmable cloud-native global network fabric that abstracts away complexity. CERM is full control of the network environment and can now dial up new networks in minutes. Because the NetFoundry Platform is operated as NaaS, CERM can put their focus and align resources on creating new business value and creating new innovative products their customers will love.

CERM is now accelerating the pace and scope of their deployments to bring more customer sites online quicker and ensure that all customer data is protected and secure. This in turn makes CERM's solutions more agile and they deliver a faster return on investment for their customers.

"NetFoundy have enabled us to move to a true Infrastructure-as-code way of working with Ansible and Jenkins in CI/CD pipelines that creates Zero Trust connectivity and AppWANs at scale from code on the principle that nothing may be hand-crafted" said Nico Delaere IT Manager, CERM. "As we roll this out to our customers, we are changing the game for MIS printing and labelling to deliver unmatched innovation to our clients".

Summarizing the Benefits

By using NetFoundry's networking-as-code NaaS Platform, CERM was able to embed into their solution a global cloud-native network overlay capable of connecting any cloud with any customer's internet connection with the following benefits:

- Automate and scale solution deployments across the globe

- Accelerate customer ROI with faster onsite deployments, and improved customer satisfaction

- Implement secure zero trust connectivity at the host level in edge software appliances

- Drive complexity out of IT operations and the business with software-only NaaS

- Improved network response time by an average of 48% caused by "Internet weather"

- Reduced business risk from security breaches and cyberattacks with true end-to-end zero trust and software-defined perimeter security

Much like how hyperscale clouds implement software-defined infrastructure and services to deliver agility and scalability, NetFoundry implements cloud-based orchestration to instantly spin up and manage zero trust, performant, edge-to-cloud networks over the Internet - with all infrastructure managed by NetFoundry as NaaS.

ABOUT CERM

CERM serves 44 countries with its fully integrated mission-critical business management software since 1990. The company has its head office in Belgium but currently employs 60 people across three continents. CERM's MIS software helps Label and Packaging printers to better automate and manage their business, interconnecting all components and functions of a print shop from CRM, pre-press software, print presses, finishing equipment, logistics service providers and suppliers. www.cerm.net

ABOUT NETFOUNDRY

NetFoundry is the leader in Cloud Native Networking, enabling businesses to simply, securely and cost effectively connect distributed applications across edges, clouds and service meshes. The NetFoundry platform, delivered as SaaS, enables businesses to connect applications without the costs and complexity of VPNs, custom hardware and private circuits. NetFoundry's platform is accessed via APIs, SDKs and DevOps tools integrations, enabling practitioners, application developers, and network administrators to get the levels of automation and agility which are only possible with connectivity-as-code. NetFoundry is headquartered in Charlotte, North Carolina, with offices in California, Colorado, New York, London, Bangalore, and Singapore.

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

Telephone —
+1.704.762.1405

Contact us   Share ✉ 🐦 f in

For more information, visit us at www.netfoundry.io