NETFOUNDRY™

KEO Transforms Networking with NetFoundry

Network-as-a-Service disrupts old clichés to deliver new levels of agility

CASE STUDY

KEO

KEO is a creative enterprise, where innovation is a way of life. We are uniquely resourced with end-to-end services to take clients from inspiration – through conceptualization – to realization of planning, design or project delivery in the built and natural environments. For over 57 years we've led with vision, contributing to many of the world's most ambitious projects, iconic places, remarkable experiences and prosperous communities.

As a highly integrated and agile AEP/PMCM firm, KEO is ranked by ENR in the Top 225 International Design Firms; in the Top 20 International PM/CM Firms; and by World Architecture as 50th largest global architecture firm and #1 Firm in the Middle East Region in their 2021 WAS 100 Survey.

The firm recognized that to unlock the creative potential of its people and organization required the transformation of its networking environment to better support its employee's connectivity from project locations around the globe, as well as improve connectivity to global branch offices and support remote users working from home. The firm undertook a strategic initiative guided by its CIO Damir Jaksic to transform its network infrastructure to enhance connectivity for users from anywhere to anywhere, connecting the services across the branches and Azure® Cloud services in a secure, agile, simplified, high performance, and cost-effective way. As with most distributed organizations that operate on a global scale, securing remote access for employees working from home is a key priority for KEO.

As a Microsoft® Gold Partner, NetFoundry was introduced to the KEO team. KEO needed to address the high cost of existing MPLS private circuits and poor performance for connecting users from different branch offices. KEO was planning to decommission their MPLS circuits. The existing VPN technology being used to connect branch offices also lacked modern security and was deemed insufficient. KEO was also building out their public cloud environment hosted in Azure West Europe, and with NetFoundry, implemented secure micro-segmented connections to Azure with a single software-defined network.

Network Transformation Drives Digital Transformation

KEO's network transformation journey included NetFoundry software being deployed on different endpoint device form factors, on an instance on Azure, on virtual machines at all KEO branches and offices. Policies defining secure access to services, software and locations were quickly set with NetFoundry's cloud-native management to establish zero trust connectivity. KEO selected NetFoundry's zero trust Network-as-a-Service (NaaS) Platform for a number on reasons including:
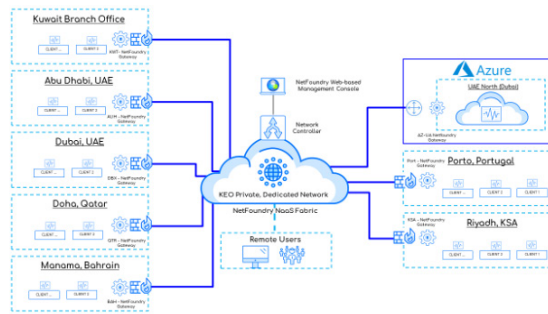
- Agility: delivers very secure, reliable, performant connectivity with an estimated 60% improvement in operational efficiency

- Software-defined: eliminates the need to provision private circuits, acquire or manage hardware

- NaaS: full OPEX model, with all infrastructure managed by NetFoundry

- Cost reduction: Estimated at more than 50%, reduced costs compared to legacy MPLS

- Simplification: Implemented a single, globally capable zero trust and SASE environment

- Future proof: Provides a foundation supporting any use case

NETFOUNDRY

As outlined by KEO, NetFoundry demonstrated value by supporting multiple use cases including user connectivity from anywhere and implemented superior all-in-one cloud native WAN connectivity that supports KEO to transform their network, establishing a clear path to digitally transform the organization.

"NetFoundy presented us with the opportunity to reset the old clichés and to disrupt long-standing operating models, creating a far more agile workforce and work itself", said Damir Jaksic, Chief Information Officer, KEO International Consultants. "By collaborating with NetFoundry we are changing the game and building a highly agile digital organization to deliver unmatched innovation to our clients".

Now, KEO has a fully programmable cloud-native global network fabric that abstracts away complexity and can now dial up new networks in minutes. Because the NetFoundry Platform is operated as NaaS, KEO no longer must allocate IT resources to managing network hardware. KEO can put their focus and align resources on creating new business value for their clients.

Network Transformation Drives Digital Transformation

KEO leadership expressed that they were most impressed with the ease of the set-up and configuration of the NetFoundry platform. The core solution was provisioned in one day! KEO was also impressed by how NetFoundry's solution enhanced agility with creative configuration options.

The NetFoundry NaaS Platform is now a core pillar of KEO's "Work from Anywhere" strategic program. The KEO and NetFoundry teams are now collaborating to extend zero trust connectivity and flexible NaaS capabilities to support additional "Cloud—First" initiatives and digital transformation. KEO is now enjoying these benefits:

- Achieved equivalent network throughput with more than 50% reduction in costs over MPLS

- Deploy networks in minutes vs. weeks or months for complex alternatives

- Support a globally dispersed workforce and new work from anywhere initiatives

- Implement military grade security with zero trust connectivity, and secure web access

- Improved operational efficiency by approximately 60% with reduced complexity

- Reduced risk of security breaches and cyberattacks with true end-to-end zero trust

Much like how hyperscale clouds implement software-defined infrastructure and services to deliver agility and scalability, NetFoundry implements cloud-based network 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 KEO INTERNATIONAL CONSULTANTS

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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.

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NETFOUNDRY™

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

Telephone —
+1.704.762.1405

Contact us   Share

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