



STREAMLINING WFH WITH MULTICLOUD NETWORKING

Tata Sons Deploys Advanced Multi-Cloud Networking and Streamlines Support for Work From Home

CASE STUDY





Tata Sons is the principal investment holding company and promoter of Tata companies - India's only value-based corporation — a visionary, a pioneer, a leader, since 1868. Tata group is a global enterprise comprising 30 companies across ten verticals. The group operates in 100 countries across six continents. 66% of the equity share capital of Tata Sons is held by philanthropic trusts, which support education, health, livelihood generation, and art and culture.

Tata Sons recognized it needed to improve security and enhance connectivity for employees in India accessing applications hosted in multiple clouds including Azure, hosted data centers and Tata Sons private cloud environments. Tata Sons needed an alternative to its existing peer-to-peer IPsec VPN used to connect branch offices to clouds.

Then the COVID-19 pandemic struck. Overnight Tata Sons now had to ensure business continuity and address connectivity requirements for a hundred employees who were now mandated to work from home (WFH). Security of network connectivity and performance of applications over the network were identified as critical success criteria. In short, classic VPN systems were deemed to be inflexible, slow to set up and problematic for home-based workers.

The new solution needed to support users connecting with a variety of devices including personal (BYOD) laptops and desktop PCs along with corporate supplied laptops. Users were connecting from home using a wide variety of broadband and existing internet connections. Tata Sons was seeking to provide a seamless and highly productive work experience for all users. Users needed the ability to have secure and performant access to a variety of corporate applications hosted in multiple Azure public cloud locations as well as applications hosted in Tata's private cloud.

Workforce Productivity and Business Resiliency Enhanced by NetFoundry Zero Trust Networking

Tata Sons technical requirements included implementation of a single agile platform to support both branch and WFH user connectivity. The solution would replace multi-hop IPsec tunnels and an existing Fortigate VPN implementation that was complex to operate and maintain. These challenges were further complicated by the urgency and crisis response times lines created by the COVID pandemic. Tata Sons needed to quickly enable its workforce which was now completely remote to minimize the possibility of any negative business impacts.

Working with NetFoundry, Tata Sons implemented a Zero Trust Networking Platform that provides a single pane of glass with its cloud-native overlay across the Internet. The alternative would have been to try and deploy hundreds of VPNs. With NetFoundry, Tata Sons employees can use whatever Internet connection they currently have available and by deploying NetFoundry Desktop Edge clients on their devices, connectivity to corporate assets is automatically optimized.

The NetFoundry solution delivers zero trust connectivity over an enhanced internet overlay i.e the NetFoundry fabric that routes data traffic directly along best performing paths, unlike a traditional VPN which often introduces bottlenecks and traffic tromboning. NetFoundry's optimizations improved network performance by 3X compared to the previously deployed VPN and this helped overcome the negative impacts of packet loss, instability, and throughput issues common with applications running over consumer grade internet connections. The overall solution had no dependency or requirement on hardware appliances and was deployed in approximately five hours. This demonstrated the simplicity of the overall solution.

For the Tata Sons IT organization the NetFoundry Zero Trust Platform brought a new level of agility and flexibility. Tata Sons IT can now adapt to the changing conditions of its workforce and be fully prepared for when employees begin the process of returning to work in offices by easily scaling remote connectivity up or down on-demand. Tata sons IT also reduced security risks through NetFoundry's zero trust posture that makes network and resources invisible until users are fully verified and authorized to access the network (authenticate before connect with bi-directional certificate management). In addition, Tata Sons has a robust policy-based control environment to implement granular access control that is defined and enforced by user and group characteristics.

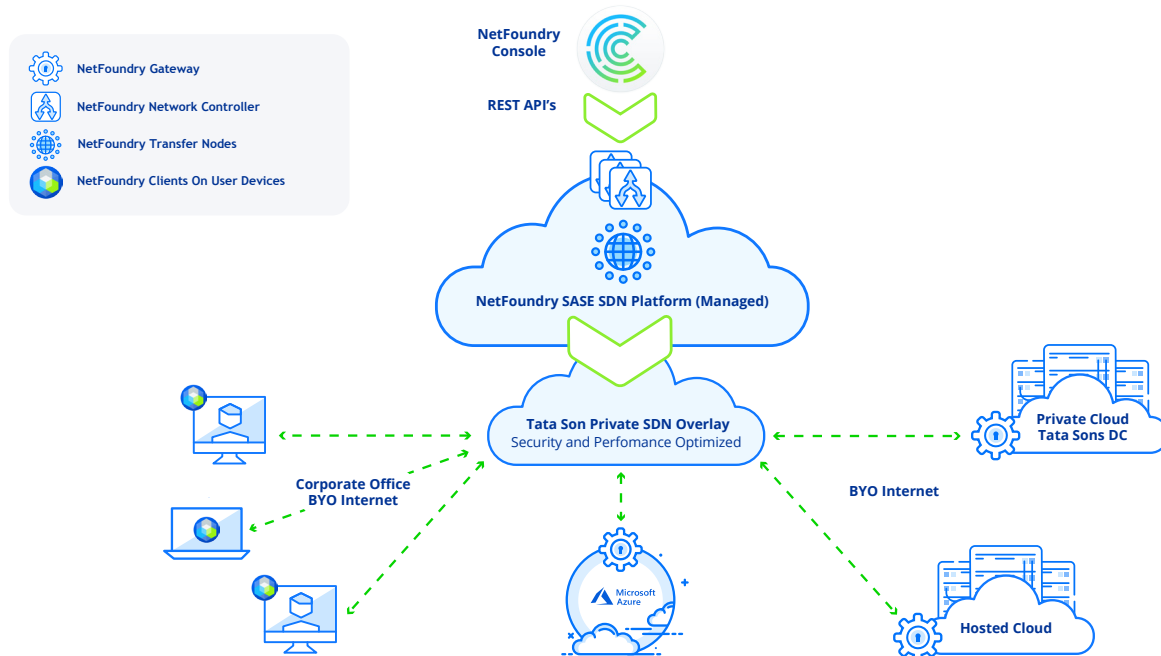
THE BENEFITS

By partnering with NetFoundry, Tata Sons successfully responded to the disruption and challenges of unexpected changing user needs caused by the COVID pandemic. By consuming the NetFoundry solution as Network-as-a-Service (NaaS), Tata Sons had no upfront CAPEX investment. Instead they have a flexible OPEX business model with consumption-based pricing that scales directly to their business needs and contributes to lower operational and support costs. The NetFoundry zero trust NaaS solution is delivering value to Tata Sons.

- A single NaaS solution for connecting users to applications wherever users need to be – at home or at a Tata office
- Implementation of the network and endpoints was completed in 5 hours
- Achieved a 3X network performance improvement over an existing VPN
- The solution was up and running before the pandemic lockdown could affect business operations
- No new networking hardware was needed, solution is completely software-defined
- Zero trust secure access supports a diverse fleet of BYOD and corporate user devices completely software-defined
- Hundreds of users were provided with consistent, reliable secure access using existing internet connections
- Seamless integration and connectivity to multiple public and private clouds

“NetFoundry’s zero trust NaaS helped us rapidly and securely implement a work from home solution and gives us the agility to enable employee remote access very smoothly and securely. The performance of the NetFoundry solution is remarkable compared to traditional VPN solutions.”

-Raviraj B Salvi, Head of IT, Tata Sons



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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