CUSTOMER CASE STUDY

Ensuring secure, reliable connectivity for new offices and remote employees

◼️◗ RRMM
ARCHITECTS

1 week

to transition employees to remote work

125

employees supported

5

offices connected

Industry

🔧 Architecture/Construction

Location

🌐 Chesapeake, Virginia

Products

🛡️ Security & SD-WAN (MX)

📚 Switching (MS)

📶 Wireless LAN (MR)

Solutions

🏬 Branch networking

Highlights

- One-man IT team scales to support growing business with cloud-managed solutions

- New office locations connected and secured within minutes with zero-touch provisioning

- Minimal disruption to ongoing client projects during rapid move to remote work

Overview

Headquartered in Chesapeake, Virginia, with four additional offices in the state, as well as in Maryland, RRMM Architects is a leading, dynamic design firm offering architectural, design build, interior design, and planning services. The firm's project experience encompasses schools, public safety facilities, secure federal facilities, higher education facilities, retail stores, and housing, among others. Licensed in the 49 contiguous states, RRMM has successfully completed projects nationwide and worldwide while developing a reputation for comprehensive and imaginative designs and exceptional customer service.

Challenge

Over the last several years, demand for RRMM's services has expanded, and the company has opened additional offices in new cities to ensure it can provide high-quality architecture and design services to its growing client base. With more employees and locations than ever before, including remote workers needing to access office resources, RRMM's networking requirements were becoming increasingly complex. Another issue with rising complexity was RRMM's existing networking equipment. The company's lean IT team was spending hours troubleshooting persistent network reliability problems without many insights to guide their efforts. RRMM was ready to make a change to a cloud-managed security and SD-WAN solution that would cost-effectively scale to support its growth plans, while providing the level of security, stability, and reliability it needed.

Solution

To meet its evolving business and technology requirements, Aaron Sturniolo, IT Director at RRMM, selected Cisco Meraki cloud-managed solutions. Aaron began with a free trial of a Meraki MR access point, which he tested both at home and in the RRMM Chesapeake headquarters. Impressed its reliability, faster Wi-Fi connections, and better coverage, Aaron quickly moved ahead with deployment across all RRMM offices. Secure, reliable VPN connectivity was critical, so the decision to deploy the Meraki MX series security and SD-WAN enterprise appliances in all of its locations, along with the Meraki MS switches, also helped as the company opened additional offices.

In addition to secure site-to-site connectivity with Meraki Auto VPN, Aaron and his team were able to take advantage of the MX security appliance's advanced features to manage bandwidth and protect against cyber threats.

Non-business-related traffic can be filtered and unauthorized personal devices can be blocked. As well, with more of the company's meetings now taking place virtually, RRMM's IT team can ensure that all users enjoy the best possible quality of experience.

RRMM is also benefiting from the operational speed and agility made possible by the Meraki solution to adapt to changing work environments. When the majority of its employees needed to transition to remote work, for example, Aaron's IT team had to act quickly to implement a solution that would make the transition smooth without hampering productivity. By deploying the Meraki MX security and Z3 teleworker solutions, RRMM was able to securely extend the capabilities of the Meraki cloud-managed network to all of its employees wherever they were located. Self-configuring and managed over the web, Aaron's IT team was able to rapidly connect remote locations without having to rely on assistance from end-users.

Results

Since deploying the Meraki cloud-managed solution, RRMM has realized numerous benefits that have helped them become more efficient and cost-effective during a period of significant growth.

The company has been able to deploy Meraki Security Appliances at each of its office locations in minutes using zero-touch cloud provisioning. Security settings are simple to synchronize and Auto VPN technology enables the IT team to securely connect new offices in three clicks using the Meraki dashboard.

> **When you plug in a Meraki product, you don't have to do much to get it up and running. It just works."**

AARON STURNIOLO
Director of IT, RRMM Architects

For Aaron, it's simplicity that stands out about the Meraki solution, and was especially helpful when his IT team was supporting dozens of remote work environments. RRMM's clients were impressed with the transition and the lack of disruption it caused to ongoing client projects.

The solution has also proven to be cost-effective. Equipping employees with MX and Z3 solutions meant that they could continue using their desktop computers at home, avoiding the cost of upgrading to expensive laptop computers. In addition, as a result of the reduction of provisioning time and the migration to cloud-based management, Aaron and his team are free to devote more time to pursuing other high-priority IT initiatives. Aaron believes the Meraki deployment has personally saved him so much time. He estimates it would have required three additional team members to accomplish the same results.

The ease of use and cost and time savings that Aaron experienced have proven to be invaluable benefits for his team and RRMM's overall business. Looking to the future, RRMM is confident that their Meraki solutions will provide the support they need to tackle the next challenge.

Interested in learning more? Visit our website

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