



Secure Resilient Networks

VPN delivers improved security, resiliency and scalability to legal firm

Hibberts LLP is a legal firm with offices in North Shropshire and South Cheshire. As a result of business growth and the addition of two further offices, Hibberts LLP needed to rationalise connectivity between offices, paying attention to three main criteria: security, resiliency and scalability.

Security

As with most businesses, the security of corporate information is paramount. This is especially true in the legal services since they are entrusted with sensitive client data and are duty bound to ensure all safeguard measures are in place. CI-Net has provided a private network between all Hibberts LLP offices. All site-to-site traffic traverses only the secure CI-Net network and is kept totally independent from the Internet.

By using IPSec VPN technology and the StoneGate platform, all traffic is fully encrypted within the meshed environment. The StoneGate platform provides industry-leading multi-layer, multi-link security ensuring that users have efficient protection from network threats and the best possible protection from a total WAN failure. StoneGate is fully compliant and certified with both IHDMA and FIPS (Federal Information Processing Standard) requirements.

Resiliency

Hibberts LLP recognised the need for resiliency at each office since a loss of connectivity at any of their sites could result in a loss of productivity. Even the shortest of outages can have a dramatic impact on the business and result in irreparable damage to client relations.

The CI-Net Wide Area Network solution provides resiliency at both the customer and network levels.

At each site CI-Net has provided multiple circuits, all terminating into a managed load balancing StoneGate firewall. Previous experience shows that redundant back-up circuits do not always work when they are most needed (i.e. when the primary circuit has an outage).



In the legal profession the security of corporate information is essential, since they are entrusted with sensitive client data and are duty bound to ensure robust safeguard measures are in place.

Please contact us for further information

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CI-Net has therefore implemented an active-active configuration whereby all available bandwidth is utilised all of the time. This method has both technical and business benefits:

- Technically this method has allowed CI-Net to work with Hibberts LLP to prioritise certain types of traffic. By applying QOS (Quality of Service) bandwidth availability to business critical applications can be guaranteed.
- The business benefits of this configuration include a greater Return on Investment (ROI) as Hibberts LLP gains full use of their resources.

At the network level, CI-Net has terminated the multiple circuits from each remote site at different data centres within its own core network. The result provides diversity in the unlikely event of an outage at a data centre.

The CI-Net network has been “over engineered” so that it is extremely robust with multi-Gb fibre running throughout (approx. 760Gb), through multiple routes and peering with in multiple carriers to provide a truly resilient backbone for our client base. More information about the CI-Net network is available on request.

Scalability

The Wide Area Network provided needed to be flexible and able to move with the needs of the business. The flexibility of the network had to include: bandwidth demand, possible additional office locations, the provision for home workers to connect to the corporate WAN, further network functionality and integration with existing or future applications.

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