

Wright Pierce Builds Sustainable WAN with Global Collaboration Using CloudGenix

CloudGenix AppFabric helped Wright Pierce build a sustainable, manageable software-defined WAN with visibility, control, and global data sharing

Build a Sustainable WAN

After years of managing a WAN comprised of products from many different vendors, Wright Pierce wanted to design and implement a next-generation sustainable WAN that enabled agility and simplified the task of WAN management. Having products from multiple suppliers led to substantial problems deploying new sites, troubleshooting issues, and isolating the root cause of problems when they arose. Further, Wright Pierce wanted a way to reduce the number of types of WAN transports they had to manage down to two: point-to-point Ethernet and direct Internet.

“Our WAN was difficult to manage because we had so many different vendors and products. Even with multiple links, it felt like our high availability strategy was to just pray. With CloudGenix, we have a top-down AppFabric with high availability, global management, and visibility into how the WAN is operating”, said Krey Sims, Senior Network Administrator at Wright Pierce.

With CloudGenix, Wright Pierce was able to reduce their WAN transport types to two, improve resource utilization and high availability, and increase confidence in deploying cloud and SaaS applications including Office 365 and Skype for Business. “Rebooting our firewalls to fix connectivity and application issues became a part of our weekly routine. Since



ABOUT WRIGHT PIERCE

Wright Pierce, based in Topsham, ME, is a firm committed to helping engineer a better environment for their clients, humanity, and the Earth at large. Wright Pierce has been a leader in providing water, wastewater, and infrastructure engineering services to municipalities, utilities, industrial/commercial, and institutional clients for more than seventy years.

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Enable Global Data Sharing and Collaboration

As an engineering firm, Wright Pierce is heavily dependent on the ability to globally share and collaborate on engineering data generated in computer-aided design (CAD) applications along with other large documents and images. Further, Wright Pierce has moved to the cloud for collaboration and productivity tools using Office 365. Using Panzura Freedom hybrid cloud NAS, Wright Pierce engineers can collaborate concurrently on the same projects, even if they are in different offices. “Our WAN was unreliable and would cause latency and disconnects between our Panzura Filers, which would keep our engineers from being able to work on the files they needed. We needed a reliable WAN that enabled our desire for global collaboration and empowered our employees to be productive.”, said Marsh.

Wright Pierce deployed CloudGenix in each of their locations and reduced their WAN transports to a unified AppFabric. With top-down management of their WAN, Wright Pierce was able to specify which applications, including Panzura, were critical to the business, and the required settings for performance, security, and compliance. Since deploying CloudGenix, the WAN has been an enabler for their Panzura Freedom deployment, and the issues have vanished completely. “We haven’t had an issue with our WAN since migrating to CloudGenix. Our engineers are productive and get the best possible user experience while collaborating across sites.”, said Sims.

Simple Network Management and Unprecedented Visibility

Prior to CloudGenix, Wright Pierce managed their network the way most companies do—router, switch, and firewall command line interfaces. Having multiple vendors deployed in the network required knowledge of multiple different interfaces which created substantial complexity. Like many others, Wright Pierce was stuck dealing with devices that operated at low-layers using packets as the fundamental unit of measure and operation. Without application layer intelligence, legacy networking devices make it fundamentally impossible to simplify alignment of the network with business goals, and, are unable to provide critical visibility into how applications and sites are performing—especially when problems arise.

With CloudGenix AppFabric, Wright Pierce now has a top-down application-centric WAN managed using policies that align to their business goals for performance, security, and compliance. Policies automatically propagate

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throughout the entire network ensuring a consistent experience for each application across the WAN. “We had just about every product under the sun in our WAN and migrated to CloudGenix for all of our sites. We now have a view of our WAN end-to-end and visibility into exactly what’s happening. All of our traffic goes through CloudGenix and it’s flawless.”, said Marsh.

Why Wright Pierce Chose CloudGenix

Wright Pierce chose CloudGenix because AppFabric helped simplify their WAN, improved global collaboration, and provides visibility into the health and performance of each of their WAN links, sites, and applications. With cloud-delivered management and monitoring, Wright Pierce enjoys not having to deploy additional management and monitoring systems, or, expensive infrastructure such as storage to support those use cases. Best of all, Wright Pierce now has a single interface from which to manage their WAN using language and policy defined by business need rather than archaic and esoteric command lines.

On why Wright Pierce chose CloudGenix, Marsh said, “CloudGenix is reliable and simplified our WAN. It just works and does exactly what it says it will do. CloudGenix has fixed WAN issues that were affecting cloud applications and our global collaboration platform.”

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ABOUT CLOUDGENIX

CloudGenix provides a software-defined WAN solution with AppFabric technology that enables you to build a global WAN based on business policies for application performance, compliance, and security, across all sites and users. Unlike router-based solutions, CloudGenix AppFabric allows you to define top-down global policies based on business intent rather than fragmented bottoms-up configuration changes based on technical implementation. With CloudGenix, you can easily integrate heterogeneous WAN connections for any site, take advantage of cloud and SaaS applications, improve visibility for app performance and SLAs, and dramatically simplify network operations.