

Founders Group Ensures High Availability

Situation:

Deploy a highly secure business continuity solution for a full service financial planning firm with dozens of branch offices across the U.S.

"I wish all services companies responded the way Corente does. The support staff has never let us down. In fact, they have resolved some of our most difficult networking issues."

—Glenn Fabish,
Founders Group

Founders Group, a financial services and banking firm, needed a dependable and highly secure business continuity solution for its retail banks located throughout the Chicago metropolitan area. The goal was to provide backup for the private line connections that deliver core banking applications to dozens of retail branches in the event of a pandemic. Since Founders depends on critical applications that must be available continuously without any downtime, the ability to recover quickly and seamlessly from an outage or disaster is vital to maintaining a seamless operation.

But no traditional failover solution offered the dependability that Founders Group required. With traditional solutions, enterprises cannot be sure that the backup network is functional *until* a failure occurs. There is no centralized monitoring system, so IT is left to keep its fingers crossed and hope that everything is still working correctly. Founders required a solution that provided automatic failover as well as real-time, proactive alerts and reports on the backup connection, so that Founders' IT group could actually *know* that applications would operate seamlessly in the event of a private line failure.

Finally, it's also critical for a business continuity solution to provide central control and management, so staff can easily modify policies from any location.

Solution:

Corente provides a reliable and secure backup, and more...

Corente responded to Founders Group's requirements for business continuity by leveraging the Corente Applications Delivery Platform— an automated infrastructure for administration, management, and monitoring that enables Founders Group to prevent, detect, and recover from unplanned outages, quickly .

Corente now provides Founders Group with proactive backup monitoring; so that the company's IT staff will always know that the backup connections are ready in case of an emergency. Corente allows IT staff to regularly test the backup network. If a failure of the private lines does occur, failover to the backup network will be fast and automatic, and applications will continue to function without interruption. Furthermore, by basing administration on business-relevant metrics, configuration is simple and monitoring feedback is clear.

To implement the solution, Corente deployed a Corente Application Services Gateway at each datacenter and branch office to backup the company's private lines with broadband connections over the public Internet. Since Corente is built on a XaaS architecture, the Gateways execute policies that are defined and maintained from a central point of control. This not only accelerated initial deployment of the business continuity network, it made it simple to add new locations going forward, and manage policy changes remotely; Corente provides access to the active policy directory from a Java-based GUI, allowing administrators to implement changes to the business continuity network from any location. This is critical in the event of a wide-spread business interruption such as a pandemic.

Founders Group has also implemented Corente's solution for remote access to company headquarters. With Corente, Founders Group has obtained a secure and reliable application delivery capability, along with high availability and remote access in a single, centrally managed solution.

Company

Founders Group

Industry

Financial Services

Challenge

Deploy a highly secure business continuity solution for a full service financial planning firm with dozens of branch offices across the U.S.

Solution

The Corente Applications Delivery Platform was deployed at all data centers and branches to back up private lines with secure broadband connections over the public Internet.

Results

Corente provides Founders Group with an automated and fully secure high availability solution to ensure that the backup Corente network will be available in case of a failure of the private lines— without physical access to a location or manual intervention. Proactive backup monitoring allows the company to be sure that the backup connections are ready in case of an emergency.

In addition, Founders Group deployed Corente local remote access for its off-site employees, gaining additional value from a single solution.

Key benefits include:

- Speed and ease of deployment
- Reduced CapEx and OpEx
- Secure & reliable end-to-end applications delivery
- Comprehensive security model designed into the system
- Ease of employee and resource re-deployment to new locations
- Central policy control from any location

Corente's Distinctive Capabilities

Some of the key benefits that Corente offers Founder's Group include:

Anything as a Service (XaaS) Capabilities

Application-Specific, Fine-grained Controls

Automatic Configuration

- Automatic discovery of ports and local configuration
- Automatic software updates and fallback on update failure
- Automatic IP address management and conflict resolution

Security Management

- Each connection fully authenticated
- User authorization
- Automated firewall rules generation

Application-Experience-Focused, Proactive, Real-time Monitoring, Alerting, and Reporting

Business Continuity through Access, Datacenter, and Server Failover

Application Traffic Prioritization

Unified Administration Portal

- Graphical network topology
- Drag and drop administration

High Availability

Active Policy Directory

- Streamlined, central policy administration

Federated Extranet Creation and Security

- Each business unit, franchise, customer, or partner controls its own connections and cannot override each other's security policies
- Only mutually agreed-upon traffic exchanged
- No additional firewalls or VPNs required
- No visibility into partner networks
- Security not dependant on physical or logical integrity of remote devices

About Founders Group

Founded in 1974, Founders Group is an independent fee-only financial planning and corporate consulting firm. It specializes in working with individuals to develop and implement a comprehensive financial plan that integrates cash flow management, debt reduction, education planning, income tax planning, retirement and estate planning, risk management and investment advice. Founders Group is dedicated to becoming the most respected, personal and corporate financial advisory firm with the highest quality of integrity and service.

About Corente

The Corente Applications Delivery Platform is an integrated, scalable, multi-tenant, suite of modular services that secure and simplify the delivery and management of applications and cloud based services to Extended Enterprises (an organization's business network of branches, remote offices, partners, customers, suppliers, business units, franchisees, etc.) in over 63 countries worldwide. Corente enables a set of modular services that allow internal IT organizations or Cloud Services Providers to give even the smallest office or remote location the benefits of a large scale professionally managed and operated IT infrastructure that provides:

- Integrated security and performance monitoring, alerting, and reporting;
- Automated provisioning, configuration, and management; and
- An Anything as a Service (XaaS) architecture that delivers a complete environment for distributed applications that easily integrates with any existing network and data center infrastructure without network or application modification.

For more information, please visit www.corente.com or contact Corente at 888-783-0383.

