

Islington Council



The Client

Islington Council is the largest employer in the borough, servicing the needs of a community of over 175,000 people. With multiple services available online, and countless different departments, it is vital that their networks are kept fully stable and secure at all times. For this reason they are always looking to be up to date with the latest technologies that can ensure a strong and consistent service for their customers.

The Challenge

Islington's network is a great example of a mission critical environment - as most are. Any network can be at risk if someone makes an incorrect or unauthorised configuration change to a network device, and often, even the shortest network downtime can be costly. While there are a number of ways to back up data and put contingencies in place, Islington Council did not have a solution that would restore the configuration of their multiple network appliances.

The Solution

Islington Council implemented Restorepoint from TADASoft, an innovative solution that is rapidly being adopted by a number of their customers. Restorepoint is an integrated hardware and software solution for Network Administrators, which makes it easy to automatically backup and store the configuration of your network devices and to restore it when needed, all from one convenient central location with an easy to use web interface. It is the only vendor independent appliance on the market and the first product to address this commonly overlooked issue.

TADASoft is a privately held company headquartered in the UK. In 2004, TADASoft began researching the Security Appliance market space - looking for niche technology opportunities that could truly add value to this ever expanding area.

TADASoft's mission is to provide powerful enterprise-class appliance solutions that are suitable for the largest of businesses yet have the ease of use and affordability that smaller businesses demand. Their latest product - Restorepoint, is a strong example of such a product.

Restorepoint allows users to roll back a configuration change, therefore avoiding costly downtime and security risks to their network. Multiple administrators can use Restorepoint to manage configuration backups for a variety of switches, routers, firewalls, proxies and other network appliances from multiple vendors. Simplifying the process completely, and potentially saving vast amounts of company time and resource.

For peace of mind, Restorepoint is self-maintaining. After the initial configuration, it requires virtually no user intervention: all backups and software updates happen automatically and you only receive a notification if there is a problem requiring attention.

There is no software or operating system to install, and all backups can be scheduled and automated on an hourly, weekly or monthly basis, with the option to do this manually as well. In addition, all software updates and product plug-ins are controlled centrally and distributed automatically by TADASoft, who also provide online remote support if necessary.

Islington Council continued...



Ingi Ossurarson, Senior Exchange and AD Administrator at Islington council has been using the solution since 2007, and explained;

"With organisations like ours that have a lot of network devices, restoring the configurations on all of them not only takes a great deal of time but is often a very complex and skilled operation. TADASoft have provided us with a solution that does it all for you and is so simple and user friendly that anyone could use it. All you need is your password and IP address to access the simple user interface - it's dead easy"

A key feature of this solution is that it is very granular - allowing users to compare the configuration of devices taken at different times. Restorepoint can automatically generate an email notification whenever a configuration change is detected.

Users can also specify any backups they may want to keep indefinitely, such as those taken just before a major device upgrade. Otherwise you can set it to automatically remove or archive old backups at a certain point in time. Archives can be stored to a remote FTP or Windows server for disaster recovery.

TADASoft is continuously adding support for new devices. Restorepoint supports a growing range of network devices with its plug-in architecture - Cisco, Juniper, Check Point, Blue Coat, Brocade, Riverbed, Barracuda, HP Procurve, Alcatel, Bloxx, Watchguard, Nokia, Nortel, Extreme, f5 Networks, McAfee, Fortinet, Array Networks etc.

The Results

Islington Council have been delighted with the solution. Its ease of use and minimal maintenance requirements have stood out head and shoulders above the pain-staking processes that they had to go through in the past. Ossurarson believes that the technology is excellent, and would recommend it to other users;

"Having used this solution over a number of months I would recommend it to anyone who asked my opinion. It is a great product that is simple to use and negates a huge issue that was previously not catered for."