STAYING ON THE MOVE, WITH BETTER SECURITY AND A STRONGER NETWORK

Movement Mortgage protects sensitive financial data and keeps pace with rapid growth with security, Dell EMC networking and support.

**Business needs**

Movement Mortgage needed to improve network security and find a better way to manage its growth.

**Solutions at a glance**

- **Networking**
  - Dell EMC Networking N2048 switches
  - Dell EMC Networking X-Series Smart Managed switches
  - Aerohive wireless access points
- **Network Security**
  - SonicWall NSA series firewalls
- **Servers**
  - Dell EMC PowerEdge servers with Intel® Xeon® processors

**Business results**

- Increases network performance and availability
- Gives IT department centralized management capabilities

**Protects**

against advanced security threats

**Easily supports**

27% annual employee growth
Movement Mortgage is moving fast in the world of financial services. The mortgage provider, founded in 2008, has grown from four employees to more than 3,800 in 47 states today. It is currently the fastest-growing mortgage bank in the U.S. according to Inc. Magazine.

The company’s 30-person IT staff, though, struggled to support that kind of business success. “With such a small team to support thousands of employees, we needed a way to provide central management and fast deployment of mobile devices and other solutions,” says Cam Lawler, the company’s enterprise applications director. “That was difficult for us, considering we had an aging networking infrastructure.” Movement Mortgage also required a better wireless network for its increasingly mobile workers. For example, the organization’s loan processors and underwriters work from different locations in the main office each day, and the IT team needed to deploy more effective WiFi capabilities in response.

Finally, Movement Mortgage needed to reduce the potential for network attacks in order to protect its customers’ financial data. “We had disparate networks without a unified security policy, and our hardware did not have the configuration and performance we needed to deliver next-generation security,” Lawler says.

Bolstering security and optimizing the network with Dell technologies

The company considered different wired and wireless networking and security solutions before choosing to deploy an end-to-end Dell EMC and Intel® solution. The solution includes Dell EMC Networking N2048 switches at the company’s four operation centers in South Carolina, Arizona and Virginia. “With the stacking capabilities in the Dell EMC Networking N0248 switches, we are able to manage a large network with as few spanning tree nodes as possible,” says Lawler. Movement Mortgage also deployed Aerohive AP230 access points at all four offices, an operations center and a sales support center, with HiveManager NG for centralized network management. The organization set up separate access and policies for employees and guests.

The company’s South Carolina national sales support center also includes Dell EMC Networking X-Series smart managed switches as distribution switches to tie in its main and intermediate distribution frames using 10GbE fiber. With the Dell EMC Networking X-Series switches, the company’s network administrators have simplified management through tools such as wizards and a configurable dashboard that provides detailed visibility into the network. The company also uses the solution’s real-time analytics features to monitor and optimize traffic.

Movement Mortgage addressed its security requirements by implementing more than 300 SonicWall NSA series firewalls across all locations with centralized firewall management provided by the SonicWall Global Management System (GMS). The firm packages its SonicWall and Aerohive technologies as part of a branch-in-a-box solution for smaller branch offices. “Each branch gets a SonicWall firewall, interior domain and an Aerohive solution,” says Lawler. Each branch-in-a-box also includes Dell EMC Networking X-Series smart managed switches.

“By getting all of our locations across 47 states under a consolidated single wide-area network using Dell EMC Networking, Aerohive and SonicWall technologies, I know where traffic originates. In case of a malicious attack, I can more easily pinpoint it, shut it down and lock it out.”

Cam Lawler
Enterprise Applications Director
Movement Mortgage
Additionally, the company installed more than 3,900 Dell OptiPlex desktops, Dell tablets, and Dell Latitude laptops — connected using WiFi 802.11ac and 1GbE Ethernet — at its primary offices, with Dell ProSupport Plus for technical support on these solutions. Movement Mortgage also uses Dell EMC PowerEdge R430 servers with Intel® Xeon® processors, as well as Boomi AtomSphere software to connect on-premises applications running on the Microsoft Azure cloud platform. The servers also support virtual machines, local domain control, virus scan and malware updates.

Increases network security

Movement Mortgage has been able to ensure strong network security by standardizing on Dell EMC Networking and SonicWall technologies. Using its new solution, the company can better protect against advanced security threats. “In our industry, security is always one of the main focus areas, and we have to make sure each of our branches is secure,” Lawler says. “By getting all of our locations across 47 states under a consolidated single wide-area network using Dell EMC Networking, Aerohive and SonicWall technologies, I know where traffic originates.”

In case of a malicious attack, I can more easily pinpoint it, shut it down and lock it out.” Now, the company can deploy VPN capabilities across all office sites to enable a direct connection for the processing of loans.

Boosts network performance and uptime

The organization has increased its overall network performance and availability with its new enterprise grade 1/10GbE switching and access points. “We can better meet our network performance needs with the Dell solution,” says Kelly L. Williams, the company’s finance director of operations. “Our network performance and application availability have improved, and that has helped increase productivity for our employees at all locations.”

Enables better mobility and centralizes IT management

Movement Mortgage is also providing its employees greater mobility by taking advantage of its new wired and wireless networking solutions. Now, the company’s operations centers can conduct training sessions at any location and stream instructional videos to hundreds of employees. “Our employees can reliably access cloud-based applications such as our loan origination software because of the Dell EMC Networking and SonicWall firewall technologies,” Williams says.

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Finance Director of Operations
Movement Mortgage

Additionally, the company is able to monitor and optimize networks from a single point and centrally configure and deploy mobile devices. “We can monitor network traffic and bandwidth usage from a single management platform using the Aerohive, Dell EMC Networking and SonicWall solutions, which is essential for a small IT team like ours,” says Lawler. And using HiveManager NG, IT personnel do not have to be onsite for new branch rollouts. “Anytime you’re running a lean IT department with limited time and resources, you want to standardize as much as possible and bring everything onto one network,” says Lawler. “We get that standardization and simplification with the Dell EMC, Aerohive and SonicWall technologies we’ve deployed.”
 Supports fast business growth

For the Movement Mortgage IT staff, supporting the company’s rapid expansion is now manageable by a lean team. “We see around 27 percent employee growth year over year, and instead of playing catch-up, we can support that level of growth because of the optimized network and centralized management capabilities we’re getting with our Dell and Intel® solutions,” says Williams.

“With the ability to quickly roll out our branch-in-a-box packages to smaller branches, we can more efficiently scale our business and add locations seamlessly.”

The company can also better manage growth by relying on Dell ProSupport Plus for many of its products. “We have been able to streamline support and manage a large environment of 3,800-plus users with the help of Dell ProSupport Plus,” says Lawler. “Dell ProSupport Plus takes a lot of the work off our hands. We work in 47 states, with almost half of our employees working remotely, so having the ability to rely on a Dell technician to come to a branch is better than us sending one of our IT people out to fix something. This way, our department can focus more on important initiatives.”

As Movement Mortgage continues to accelerate its growth, the company plans to expand its use of Dell EMC Networking and SonicWall technologies. “We can be more future ready by using Dell EMC’s latest technologies to enhance our security and networking,” Lawler says. “As we grow as a company, we know we are more likely to be targeted, so the more secure our networks and computers are, the better. By relying on Dell solutions, we have confidence that we will be able to protect our sensitive data while making our network faster and more reliable.”