EQUINIX CUSTOMER CASE STUDY

HATHAWAY DINWIDDIE CONSTRUCTION

Hathaway Dinwiddie

Deploying on Platform Equinix® and leveraging an Interconnection Oriented Architecture™ improved Hathaway Dinwiddie's cloud access and application performance—reducing it to single-digit latency—while enabling a more robust business continuity and disaster recovery infrastructure.

Business Results

Migrated to a more robust BC/DR infrastructure with greater than 99.99999% uptime and automated near real-time recovery.

Vastly improved Microsoft Azure and Office 365 access and application performance, to near LAN speed, single-digit latency—less than 2 milliseconds for VDI.

Seamlessly integrated existing technologies, such as 3D modeling, onto a high-speed network backbone.

Created a solid foundation for interconnecting to new applications and capabilities, such as voice over IP (VoIP) in the cloud.

Reduced hybrid and multicloud access costs to improve the overall cost of doing business.

"Equinix has given us the best possible interconnection to services, which allows our employees to build inspiration. The door's wide open for us to adopt that next new piece of cloud technology for enhancing our business operations, because the infrastructure's already there at Equinix."

Jason Warmby, Director of Information Technology, Hathaway Dinwiddie

Executive overview

With digital transformation driving the distribution of services and controls closer to customers, employees, partners and ecosystems, Hathaway Dinwiddie looked to relocate its systems, data, mission-critical applications and cloud infrastructure to a robust business continuity and disaster recovery (BC/DR) environment. In search of a new colocation and interconnection platform to re-architect its IT infrastructure for a digital edge, the company deployed on Platform Equinix, the global platform for digital business. It leveraged an Interconnection Oriented Architecture (IOA™) and gained a reliable IT infrastructure with 99.99999% average uptime, as well as direct, secure and reliable access to Microsoft Azure and Office 365 cloud platforms. The high-performance, low-latency infrastructure (< 2 milliseconds) enabled Hathaway Dinwiddie to optimize its collaboration, file sharing, development, virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI) and financial applications for its employees and partners.

Customer overview

With more than 100 years of experience in building design and construction, award-winning Hathaway Dinwiddie Construction demonstrates its forward thinking by bringing the best capabilities and advanced technologies to its projects. The company has built many of California's iconic buildings, such as San Francisco's Transamerica Pyramid and The Getty Center in Los Angeles, and more recently, in partnership with Clark Construction Group, the Salesforce Tower—the tallest building in San Francisco. Hathaway Dinwiddie is transforming how buildings are designed and constructed by leveraging innovative digital technologies such as virtual machine 3D modeling.

EQUINIX

WHERE OPPORTUNITY CONNECTS

Business opportunity

Hathaway Dinwiddie had two very clear objectives when it began looking for a colocation data center and cloud interconnection provider:

1. **Ensure business continuity**
   The company required a more resilient interconnection and a data center platform that could both host and protect its core systems, data and applications. Reliable disaster recovery was vital, as was a high-availability environment for failover from its on-premises data center to the cloud.

2. **Accelerate cloud-based collaboration**
   A high-performance, low-latency interconnection solution was critical to better utilize Microsoft Azure and Office 365-based collaboration applications (e.g., email, SharePoint, Office 365 Suite) and file services for its employees and design and construction partners. It also wanted an interconnection platform that would provide Hathaway Dinwiddie a runway to migrate other on-premises applications to the cloud in the future to further enhance its collaboration environment.

Solution

In looking for a new home for its Silicon Valley infrastructure, Hathaway Dinwiddie wanted to leverage a more robust and reliable data center and interconnection platform than it could build on its own.

Hathaway Dinwiddie also wanted the best possible connectivity to its cloud-based application environment, so it could run as fast and efficiently as possible, as soon as possible. Its previous connection into Azure was through its internet protocol security (IPsec) virtual private network, but that connection was too slow due to high latency.

To remedy these connectivity challenges, the company built its digital edge alongside the largest industry ecosystems on Platform Equinix to reach everywhere, interconnect everyone and integrate everything. It leveraged industry best practices of an Interconnection Oriented Architecture, along with Microsoft Azure ExpressRoute and Equinix Cloud Exchange Fabric™ (ECX Fabric™) to directly connect to Azure and Office 365 clouds. ECX Fabric directly, securely and dynamically connects distributed infrastructure and digital ecosystems globally on Platform Equinix via software-defined interconnection. The solution significantly improved Hathaway Dinwiddie's cloud access and application performance, reducing it to near LAN speed, single-digit latency.

Value realized

By partnering with Equinix, Hathaway Dinwiddie was able to migrate its business continuity and DR infrastructure to a platform with greater than 99.99999% uptime. The previous DR process typically took hours to complete, but by migrating its data to the cloud, the company eliminated the time-consuming process and minimized the impact to employees and partner productivity.

Additionally, Hathaway Dinwiddie now hosts multiple collaboration applications—including its VDI farm at Equinix—that enable innovative virtual machine 3D modeling. The VDI environment now has direct access to Microsoft Azure with minimum latency over the Equinix high-speed, low-latency network backbone. Leveraging an IOA strategy on Platform Equinix has also provided Hathaway Dinwiddie with fast, easy access to cloud services for future application migration, such as cloud-based private branch exchange (PBX) for VoIP.

Key take-aways

The company not only gained a more reliable business continuity and DR infrastructure, but it also obtained fast, secure and reliable access to Microsoft Azure and Office 365 clouds over a high-performance, low-latency interconnection platform. Hathaway Dinwiddie was able to quickly and seamlessly protect and optimize current applications, while creating a solid foundation for future innovation and growth.

Equinix.com