

CLIENT
INDUSTRY
TECHNOLOGY

Stratos Global
Telecommunications
Advanced Networking

THE OPPORTUNITY

Stratos's fixed VSAT (Very Small Aperture Terminal) division operates a Satellite Master Earth Station (MES) in Englewood, Colorado. In the 1980's they developed internal switching software that allowed their point-to-point satellite communications to operate in a point-to-multipoint fashion also known as multi-drop communications. Their multi-drop processor (MDP)

system software was written to operate with the latest proven technology of the day.

Stratos wishes to update their MDP in order to take advantage of newer, faster and less expensive computers, networks and storage devices. Their new MDP needs to easily integrate with TCP/IP networks, the Internet and newer satellite technologies that are prevalent today.

THE PROBLEM

The MDP system is actively switching satellite traffic for over 300 customers on a 24x7x365 critical-business duty cycle. The X.25 communications protocol that the MDP switching is based upon has limited use and support in the industry.

A traditional walk-over approach to upgrade their MDP will be much less risky; however it will be more expensive, labor insensitive and inflexible during the transition period.

A forklift modification to a new MDP system would be risky and jeopardize the critical operations of all Stratos' customers.

Whichever approach is taken, Stratos must develop and make available to clients a workable plan for potential loss of communications, the procedure for system recovery, change control, and back-out and contingency planning.

THE SOLUTION

Stratos has chosen an application integration strategy to develop and deploy their new MDP system.

Additionally, these servers are running Agency™ layer 5 application switching software to integrate the X.25 protocol with the TCP/IP world as well as billing and many other applications and hardware found in the Stratos environment.

They have installed two application integration EdgeBroker's™ in tandem from Cyte Technologies, Inc.; and four new Dell PowerEdge servers equipped with Sangoma Quad X25 port cards.

The two EdgeBrokers™ back each other up to ensure no data is lost while they provide the GUI (Graphical User Interface) management, status monitors and the integration with the existing legacy systems.

The Dell PowerEdge servers are running a local database to maintain the new X25 circuit parameters and call

THE BENEFIT

Installing the EdgeBrokers™ integration server and application switching tools allowed Stratos to take a walk-over approach for moving to a new satellite network management without the traditional cost and limitations.

real-time. This ability reduces the opportunity for misunderstandings and human error.

They can now move clients to the new MDP one circuit at a time. Each circuit can be tested and evaluated to ensure the customers data is not at risk. OverCyte™ status monitoring and network management software ensures everyone is presented with the same status information in

Both old and new technologies work in unison as a single system. As clients and staff develop confidence in the new MDP, the old legacy MDP is quietly turned down.

With the Integration Server installed, new customers and new technologies can readily be integrated with less cost and less risk, and with increased scalability and flexibility for the future.