



Infrastructure. Anywhere.

INTERNATIONAL WIRE GROUP
CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY



Retooling its Infrastructure Positions IWG for Stable and Profitable Growth

International Wire Group (IWG) is the US's largest manufacturer of bare copper wire and associated products. Headquartered in Camden, NY, the company sells its engineered wire products and high-performance conductors to original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) and other insulated wire manufacturers across the globe.

The organization was aware of the need to modernize their legacy infrastructure, which was at the end of its useful life, lacking modern security controls, and at risk of potential downtime or significant disruption to the business. In addition, the aging framework prevented the adoption of more modern, efficient, and cost-saving IT solutions.

THE CHALLENGE

With the scheduled retirement of the organization's Director of Infrastructure, the decision was made to combine the IT departments of IWG and its sister company, Owl Wire and Cable, under one umbrella with Chris Marshall at the helm. Reducing headcount at a senior level allowed the organization to embark on an aggressive plan to modernize the environment.

"The hardware we were running on before was way past its time," said Marshall. "We are running a manufacturing plant 24 hours a day/ six days a week, so any type of failure or downtime was costing the company money and impacting our ability to meet customer demands."

OPPORTUNITY OVERVIEW

CLIENT:

- Large manufacturer of bare copper wire and associated products

TECHNICAL CHALLENGES:

- Outdated infrastructure presented security and operational challenges and could not support modern technology innovations.

SOLUTION:

- Migrated to HPE SimpliVity hyper-converged infrastructure; installed Aruba Datacenter Switches to support new infrastructure's 10 GB-based connectivity requirement; updated Microsoft environment, security applications and firewalls.



Downtime meant lost access to ERP systems, manufacturing controls, and other business critical systems. And the aging infrastructure left them without more contemporary solutions around backup, storage, data reduction, and cloud computing.

On top of that, IWG's parent company, Atlas Holdings, had just issued a range of cybersecurity mandates, and the aging technology could not adapt to these new security requirements.

A CHECK UNDER THE HOOD, AND THEN A PLAN OF ACTION

CPP Associates was brought in to assess the current environment and outline a roadmap for modernization.

CPP first conducted a thorough assessment of the IWG's environment to ascertain vulnerabilities and prioritize action steps that would address the most urgent needs first and allow the organization to maintain its operations during the implementation process.

Over the next 15 months, CPP upgraded IWG's datacenter infrastructure with HPE SimpliVity (running VMware) — a hyper-converged infrastructure solution — to replace their legacy system. Building on that, current operating systems were deployed and workloads were migrated and upgraded to support new functionality the business required. Aruba Datacenter Switches were also installed to meet the new infrastructure's 10 GB-based connectivity requirement.

CPP updated IWG's Microsoft environments to current standards while overseeing application stack migrations and ensuring minimal downtime. In addition to many other services, the CPP Professional Services Team also consolidated both International Wire and Owl Wire servers through Remote Desktop services.

From these services, IWG derived the following benefits:

- Cybersecurity posture strengthened through updated infrastructure, security applications, and firewalls
- Increased interoperability with mainstream solutions and integrations with the existing application stack
- Increased workflow efficiency freed up IT staff time to focus on critical tasks
- Day-to-day management overhead reduced by half
- Downtime virtually eliminated

ABOUT CPP ASSOCIATES

CPP Associates provides its customers and partners with responsible, consistent and repeatable solutions that will meet a customer's requirements and business needs now and in the future. Their expertise is the foundation for helping customers implement transformational IT solutions that enable revenue growth while controlling costs.

CPP's proprietary **"Infrastructure Anywhere Assessment"** factors in more than 100 variables to determine the ideal approach for its clients to deploy "cloud-like" infrastructure to maximize agility with increased utilization while at the same time, meeting demanding business requirements with a focus on technology, service level, security and costs. Its market-leading **Data Intelligence Practice** is democratizing artificial intelligence, machine learning and predictive analytics to devise breakthrough business strategies for companies of all sizes.



WITH SUCCESS, THE RELATIONSHIP EXPANDS

With the success of the IWG, CPP's fruitful relationship with the organization has continued to expand. Marshall says he thinks of CPP as both a trusted partner and a necessity for their ongoing IT infrastructure needs. "CPP is pretty vital to our operations at this point," explains Marshall. "We rely on them for a lot of server management and rolling out new technology." Next on the horizon is a similar scope of work for Owl Wire & Cable, implementing an HPE SimpliVity infrastructure, and modernizing its back-up and storage capacities.

"CPP has the range of expertise in a lot of different areas that we just don't have with the limited staff. They're knowledgeable and have a depth of experience in a wide range of areas dealing with servers, cybersecurity, antivirus and so forth. We are grateful to have them as an extension of our team."

- Chris Marshall



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