

Retailer-Owned Cooperative Relies on TPS®/NFM to Manage Growth

The retailer's innovative approach to providing their customers a customized, community-specific experience has made them a leader that continues to experience substantial growth. They support their growing network of members and vendors by providing a complete set of marketing, financial and IT services resulting in thousands of file transfers every day.

Challenge

In 2002, the retailer was looking to replace its legacy-based file distribution system that was used to exchange data among its mainframe, IBM RS/6000s, IBM 4690s, and Stratus platforms. They needed to convert from SNA file transfers to TCP/IP transfers.

The challenge was to find a full featured Managed File Transfer (MFT) solution which could not only perform all of functions provided by large and expensive mainframe offerings, but could also provide secure file transfer connections to modern systems. This crucial feature would provide the necessary tools to migrate away from the old environment at the customers' chosen speed and extent.

Solution

The company investigated three Managed File Transfer (MFT) solution providers and chose TPS®/NetWork File Manager (NFM) from TPS® Systems, Inc. The decision was based on the following advantages NFM offered:

- + NFM supported all of the platforms needed to support the variety of systems in their growing member network.
- + NFM provided a secure, automated FTP solution to communicate with the company's business partners.
- + NFM's ability to implement the conversion with no coding changes to existing applications minimized the time to complete the project.
- + NFM reduced processing time from hours to minutes and seconds.

"NFM has taken processes that took hours and minutes to complete down to minutes and seconds."

- Manager of Infrastructure

Results

NFM was initially configured to handle around 200 stores and a handful of business partners. By 2011, the usage had grown to almost 700 systems in their infrastructure running the NFM Client on AIX, Windows, MVS, AS/400 (iSeries), Linux, and 4690 platforms. NFM was being used to exchange files with over 80 business partners using NFM's FTP and SFTP support. The company had integrated NFM with their payroll, EDI, and pharmacy systems as well. Around 1000 file transfers were being managed daily by NFM and over 10 GB of data was being transferred each day.

By 2019, the usage of NFM has increased to almost 900 systems in their infrastructure with over 100 business partners being serviced as well. They are securely managing several thousand transfers per day. This includes daily backups of their nearly 300 stores accounting for over 17 GB of data for that process alone. These backups complete in just over one hour.

"Over the past 17 years, TPS® has added platforms and functionality as needed to support our growth. TPS® has always listened to our needs and have worked with us to address new opportunities as they have arisen. In addition, the support has been exceptional. TPS® is quick to work with us whenever a problem arises even if it turns out to be our issue. Our partnership with TPS® has been advantageous to both parties as it should be in a partnership."

Benefits

- + Extensive support of secure protocols and platforms allows customers to quickly connect with new partners while maintaining complete control of their flow of data from one central location.
- + Reduced operational cost through increased efficiencies gained with the automation and performance enhancement features.
- + TPS® Systems ability to quickly adapt to changing environments provides customers with a roadmap allowing customers to save substantially by migrating to newer technologies with the confidence that their MFT will continue to grow with them.