

Private Employee Benefits and Actuary Service Firm Securely Adapts to Acquisitions and Growth



nyhart

OPAQ helped the client intelligently secure distributed infrastructure following a series of acquisitions, improve end user experience, replace MPLS, and adopt WAF capability.

Background

Nyhart, a major employee benefits and actuary service company that serves more than 2,000 customers, sought a more cost-effective and agile solution for branch office security management and acquisition activity. Nyhart has eight locations distributed across the United States and required a consistent security solution across their environment that would not jeopardize end user performance. The company recently experienced significant growth, both organically and from multiple acquisitions leading Nyhart with the need to secure new locations, while also gaining greater visibility and control over their expanding distributed network. The client is anticipating more acquisitions both domestically and internationally, with Toronto being their next target location. Nyhart needed an improved, innovative security solution that enabled a faster response time, was cost-effective, less complex, more agile and secure. By leveraging the OPAQ Cloud for their security solution, Nyhart was able to eliminate their WatchGuard Firewalls and replace their MPLS. The company is also leveraging OPAQ's Web Application Firewall (WAF) capability for domain protection. As Nyhart continues their acquisition spree, their footprint will grow and the company will be able to employ the OPAQ Cloud to address these business changes seamlessly.

Challenges

- Connect and secure branch offices and newly acquired environments in a way that was more cost-effective, less complex, more secure, and provided greater agility.
- Required a security solution that improved visibility and control across multiple environments in a centralized manner
- In need of a MPLS alternative that improved reliability and performance
- Domain protection
- Adapt to additional company acquisitions in a manner that flexibly and securely adds new, unique infrastructures to Sandy Alexander's environment.

Solution

On-Demand Security Deployment

- OPAQ instantly connected Nyhart's multiple environments to its secure, agile cloud-based platform. The customer migrated their entire infrastructure to the OPAQ Cloud.
- OPAQ was layered into all of the client's infrastructure at branch office and vendor sites via redundant VPN connections. Nyhart continues to instantly add locations to the OPAQ cloud as the company continued its acquisition spree.

Distributed Branch Enablement and Optimization

- The various branch office and vendor sites were migrated to OPAQ. A VPN from each branch office and vendor site redirected all traffic to flow through the OPAQ Cloud's fully encrypted-SD-WAN at Pods distributed in the United States.
- The VPN tunnel leveraged Nyhart's existing on-site router using IPSec encapsulation with a default route pointing all traffic across the tunnel to OPAQ. A /32 specific route defined the next-hop route to OPAQ's gateway. This prevented any attempts to bypass OPAQ and access the customer site directly.

Impact

Security Product Displacement

- Achieved the following by switching to the OPAQ Cloud -- no hardware, software, or logistics had to be acquired, implemented or managed to facilitate the solution. Nyhart instantly connected to the OPAQ Cloud and achieved visibility and control over their distributed environment – all through a single interface.
 - Improved security coverage and service
 - Reduced complexity and redundancy in vendors, products, and policies
 - Replaced WatchGuard Firewalls
 - Replaced MPLS
 - No need for separate WAF solution

Threat Management

- Nyhart achieved visibility and control over their entire network resulting in better protection and reduced risk. No gaps, only complete coverage.
- The company can quickly, instantly adapt to new business requirements or security threats by adding new infrastructure obtained in multiple acquisitions instantly to the OPAQ Cloud as needed.
- The OPAQ Cloud through our partnership with Cloudflare is able to ensure complete domain protection with Web Application Firewall capability to Nyhart's domains.