efficient iP ™
DEFINING SMART DDI

Project Type

- Network Services Centralisation

- Management Centralisation

Key Benefits

- Scalability and Flexibility

- Enhanced Service Delivery

- Global Visibility and Control

gkv informatik
unternehmen synergien

www.efficientip.com

GKV Informatik
Streamlining the management of an heterogeneous network infrastructure

Founded in April 2006, GKV Informatik is one of the largest data centers and one of the best performing IT service providers in the field of public health insurance in Europe. With more than 700 employees based in Wuppertal, Germany, GKV Informatik works with 6 partners representing over 25% of the German health insurance market.

GKV Informatik offers network services and support to approximately 42,000 users divided into 1,800 offices all over Germany. The company has one of the largest European VoIP network with nearly 42,000 computer terminals and approximately 30,000 IP-phones scattered in more than 1,000 different sites. With so many people depending on the quality of its services, GKV Informatik decided to reinforce its IP and DHCP management infrastructures with a centralized solution.

They had three objectives:

- Ensure network services high availability (especially for VoIP services).

- Streamline the management of IP addresses and heterogeneous DHCP servers.

- Unify visibility and control of IP addresses and DHCP services.

Regarding IP addresses management, the administration team was facing strong limitations. GKV Informatik inherited different preexisting infrastructures, IP addresses were managed through numerous spreadsheets with no consolidation of the data, and manual modifications being very error prone, it represented a considerable source of network dysfunctions. Moreover, such a system did not allow update in real time, which made it nearly impossible to keep track of previous operations. This situation increased troubleshooting difficulties, especially with several persons working on the same file. Finally, the lack of synchronization between the IP addressing plan and DHCP services was a major cause of management inconsistency.

Another challenge for GKV Informatik lied in the heterogeneity of its DHCP services. From its various legacies, the company managed over 250 DHCP servers from different constructors (Novell, Microsoft and opensource). Some of them were administered from a central point while others were managed independently according to the partners' work method.

GKV Informatik was therefore actively looking for a way to bring homogeneity and set a comprehensive management policy. This led the company to consider EfficientIP solutions. After a conclusive pilot, it proved to be the most appropriate to meet its requirements.

EfficientIP has been able to adapt to the GKV Informatik specific infrastructure and partners who now benefit from network services high availability, performance and streamlined management.

Two SOLIDserver™ appliances consolidate GKV Informatik DHCP services, thus ensuring continuity based on an active-active DHCP failover architecture and high availability hardware platforms.

Deployment and management of this architecture is fully automated and carried out in a seamless process through the SmartArchitecture™. This innovation offers a set of DNS/DHCP architecture templates that can be applied to a selection of servers. Once a model has been chosen (i.e. DHCP failover One-to-One or One-to-Many), the SmartArchitecture™ automatically configures all the servers according to their role in the architecture.

Appliances and architectures management is centralized through a web-based platform that reconciles the IP addressing plan with the DHCP services. GKV Informatik can therefore manage its network services as a single entity, thus eliminating risks of double allocation or configuration mistakes while guaranteeing network consistency. It also allows administrators to enforce their own rules (naming conventions or workflow processes for example) and design their IP plan according to their own organization policy.

Finally, the management appliance is backed up by another appliance with real time synchronization, guaranteeing a quick and efficient disaster recovery. This global visibility allows GKV Informatik to get better control over its network services while offering its partners an easy to use web-based platform to manage their services.

"EfficientIP solutions for IP addresses and DHCP service management improved significantly the way we manage network services, in terms of visibility, performance and continuity. But more importantly, we are now able to provide high quality services to our partners while making their job easier." Michael Jagla, Network Administrator, GKV Informatik

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ABOUT EFFICIENTIP

EfficientIP solutions address organizations' needs to drive business efficiency through the innovative use of IT. Its unified management framework for DNS-DHCP-IPAM, devices and network configurations enhances security, availability and agility of the IT infrastructure. EfficientIP's solutions have been chosen by hundreds of the most demanding organizations across all industries.
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