

Horizon Food Group Improves Application Performance with Exinda

Horizon Food Group is a leading manufacturer of specialty food products, including acclaimed national baked goods brands Ne-Mo's, Cutie Pie and All-American Pies, distributed at major grocery chains, mass retailers and convenience stores across America. Horizon Food Group is also a strategic private label baker for many top hotel and restaurant chains. Headquartered in San Diego, California, the company has three manufacturing plants in Southern California and Utah, and a data center in Livermore, California.

Horizon Food Group's IT team needed a way to monitor real time traffic flows and ensure reliable application performance for the company's 90 employees, wherever they connect to the network.



Provided Visibility Into
Network Traffic



Prioritized Offsite Backups
Based on Time of Day



Delivered Reliable Citrix
Performance

The Challenge

Horizon Food Group had previously been using a Blue Coat PacketShaper appliance to monitor network traffic, but found that over time, the legacy technology's user interface became slow and arduous to use and lacked the kind of granular visibility the company needed to effectively control bandwidth spikes.

The IT team's top priority is to ensure that the company's mission critical applications such as Citrix, printing, e-mail, and file transfers always have the bandwidth needed to perform optimally, however, the company's BYOD program was negatively impacting strategic business application performance. Employees were frequently consuming significant amounts of bandwidth streaming YouTube videos during breaks, and IT staff struggled to identify the individual users causing the service disruption.

Additionally, the IT team wanted to simplify their offsite backup process but did not have enough available bandwidth to move data offsite without hurting the performance of other key business applications for employees.

"We did not have the ability to regulate BYOD traffic or identify employees that were using up too much bandwidth on recreational activities and impacting core business applications."

— **Roger Beard**
Director of Information Systems,
Horizon Food Group





The Solution

A compelling trade-in promotion that Exinda was running caught the attention of Roger Beard, Horizon Food Group's Director of Information Systems. After seeing a live demo, Roger and his team were impressed by Exinda's real time monitoring capabilities and ease of use and replaced their legacy Blue Coat packet shaping products with Exinda Network Orchestrator 2000 series solutions at four of their locations.

After a quick setup call with a support specialist at Exinda's Technical Assistance Center, Horizon Food Group was immediately able to monitor network activity in real time and create policies that prioritized their Citrix virtual desktop implementation, controlled social media use, and scheduled file backups and replication to occur outside peak business hours as to not compromise the performance of other strategic applications.

The Results

Exinda Network Orchestrator has helped Horizon Food Group reduce backup completion times by accelerating this critical traffic offsite after peak business hours so the performance of other critical applications is not impacted. The IT department now has full visibility into all traffic crossing the network and can easily control how much bandwidth can be used for recreational social media activity. Exinda's robust policy engine has helped ensure that Citrix always has top priority, so Horizon Food Group's employees always have the user experience they expect wherever they are working.

"What I was so impressed with was right out of the box, the policies fell in line with our critical business applications. It was super easy to install the Exinda and prioritize how bandwidth is used. The configuration took about 5 minutes and it was instantly better than what we were receiving before."

— **Roger Beard**
Director of Information Systems,
Horizon Food Group

"From 6 pm to 5 am we prioritize and accelerate our backup replication traffic, but during business hours it has low priority so that it doesn't impact our business when everyone is in and working. Exinda allows us to get our data offsite electronically and it works flawlessly."

— **Roger Beard**
Director of Information Systems,
Horizon Food Group

