



KEMIN INDUSTRIES IMPROVED FLEXIBILITY, CAPACITY AND CLOUD SUPPORT WITH SD-WAN FROM VIDENS

Moving away from MPLS

About 10 years ago Kemin Industries has chosen to centralise its IT and run its global operation on a single central ERP system in the USA. Connections with the branch offices were MPLS based.

Nik Meeus, worldwide IT Technical Manager, is responsible for Kemin's worldwide IT network infrastructure which today consists of 60 sites worldwide. "Before the expiration of our WAN contract in September 2018, we evaluated if we were still on the right track with MPLS in terms of price and technology. Our provider had grown so big that the collaboration did not run as smooth as we would like in terms of administration, deployment and support. Also the cost of the lines was relatively high compared to the available bandwidth.

Another important factor was our fast growing adoption of cloud solutions and applications such as Microsoft Office 365. Most of our subsidiaries had only one single internet connection. This posed a risk in terms of application availability and continuity so we wanted to have redundant connections to the cloud."

About Kemin

Built on exacting science and powered by human imagination, Kemin is an ingredient manufacturer committed to improving the quality, safety and efficacy of feed, food and health-related products. Through this commitment, Kemin touches more than 3.8 billion lives every day with their products and services. Kemin is a privately held, family-owned-and-operated company with more than 2,500 employees worldwide. To think globally and act locally, Kemin operates in 90 countries with manufacturing facilities in Belgium, Brazil, China, India, Italy, Russia, Singapore, South Africa and the United States.

www.kemin.com

The selection process

Kemin evaluated a number of options, including their existing WAN provider and a number of SD-WAN vendors.

Nik Meeus: "Then we talked to the people of Videns IT Services and we were enthusiastic about the fact they represent the most important SD-WAN vendors. Through an open dialog with Videns we came to the conclusion that the Cato Networks solution was the best fit with our environment."

Kemin Industries is a very ambitious company with high growth targets. Nik Meeus: "Last year we built a completely new site in Russia and next year a new site in South Africa will go live. Several acquisitions will fuel further growth in the future. One of the foundations under our growth strategy is digitization and the flexibility of our SD-WAN solution must help us integrate and scale faster."



"Videns always delivers on their promise, which makes them a trusted partner for Kemin."

The SD-WAN implementation

Kemin and Videns first ran a proof of concept to test the Cato solution in the Kemin infrastructure. Nik Meeus: "Some applications are just very sensitive to latency and we operate around the globe. Therefore we decide to run the PoC in Belgium as well as in two of our most difficult sites: China and Brazil." The results of the PoC were positive and soon after that the global roll-out started. On December 1st, 2018 Kemin had fully replaced their MPLS based WAN with the new Cato Networks SD-WAN solution.

Cato Networks SD-WAN benefits

With the Cato solution, Kemin now is able to use standard internet connections to connect to the private Cato network. Cato's global cloud backbone and local Points of Presence around the world ensure a performance that is at least equal to the phased out MPLS connections. Because of the lower cost of the lines, Kemin could also use double internet connections on all locations at the same price level as before. As a result, both the connections to the cloud and to the Kemin datacenter are now fully redundant.

"Cato Networks has proved to be the perfect match for our environment."

Nik Meeus: "The Cato Networks solutions has proved to be the perfect match for our environment and needs. One of the objectives we have achieved, was to have a cost neutral transition from MPLS to SD-WAN. At the same time we made big progress in terms of flexibility and capacity. A good example of Cato's benefits is the improved situation in China. Due to the Chinese firewall, our colleagues sometimes didn't have access to their email and Skype for hours. Today our Office 365 data travels via the local Chinese PoP over the global Cato cloud backbone, which solved that issue instantly."

Experiences with Videns IT Services

Nik Meeus: "We chose for Videns because they are a vendor independent SD-WAN specialist. What we learned during our collaboration is that they always deliver on their promise, which makes them a trusted partner for Kemin.

Of course there have been some issues during the Proof of Concept phase, but that's just normal. Because all issues were resolved during the PoC, the actual roll-out went amazingly fast. Within two months our SD-WAN was up and running. That speed is a result of the way the Cato solution is built, and the proactive way Videns has managed the project.

The people of Videns work very structured but at the same time they are very flexible and proactive. If we have a question or issue we don't end up in a support queue, there is always direct contact and clear communication on the status and progress. Our SD-WAN network is being monitored and every month we evaluate the performance and potential options for further improvement.

From our Belgian office our infrastructure team supports our global mission critical WAN. Even with a stable solution such as Cato, we want to have a dedicated partner which supports us worldwide. If we ever need help, it is good to know that we can rely on Videns 24x7."

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About Cato Networks

Cato Networks provides organizations with a cloud-based and secure global SD-WAN. Cato delivers an integrated networking and security platform that securely connects all enterprise locations, people, and data. Cato Cloud cuts MPLS costs, improves performance between global locations and to cloud applications, eliminates branch appliances, provides secure Internet access everywhere, and seamlessly integrates mobile users and cloud datacentres into the WAN. Based in Tel Aviv, Israel, Cato Networks was founded in 2015 by cybersecurity luminary Shlomo Kramer, co-founder of Check Point Software Technologies and Imperva, and Gur Shatz, co-founder of Incapsula. Visit www.CatoNetworks.com and Twitter: @CatoNetworks.



About Videns IT Services

Founded in 2012, Videns IT Services is the leading network-independent service provider of managed SD-WAN solutions. Videns is the alternative for enterprises that are looking to replace their traditional telco services with flexible, cost-effective cloud-enabled WAN services. We combine deep customer knowledge with specialist SD-WAN knowhow, proactive service management and a no-nonsense approach. Videns is currently supporting over 40 international customers, managing 2.000+ sites in more than 55 countries.

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