THE THIRD FLOOR ADOPTS ZERO TRUST NETWORK ACCESS (ZTNA) TO ENABLE SECURE REMOTE WORKFORCE

In four days, visualization studio deploys Appgate SDP to extend air gap network, maintain secrecy of Hollywood blockbusters

THE THIRD FLOOR VISUALIZATION

Background

The Third Floor (TTF), headquartered in Los Angeles and founded in 2004, is a visualization studio dedicated to supporting the production of next-generation media content for feature film, television, commercials, video games, virtual reality and themed attractions.

Challenges and Requirements

When the global pandemic forced TTF to suddenly switch to a work-from-home (WFH) model, technical director Jeremy Oddo, and the company's IT team considered how they could replicate the security of a tight air gap network within a heterogenous set of 250 home environments.

They immediately ruled out using existing perimeter-centric VPN technology, recognizing that VPNs provide ubiquitous access to users … exposing far too much of the IT infrastructure and creating unnecessary risk. TTF quickly sought a ZTNA solution that would:

- Deploy quickly and easily with minimal administration requirements
- Integrate with existing IAM solution and support BYOD
- Provide one-to-one connections between users (employee or third parties) and authorized resources
- Deliver an integrated solution in one client that works with everything
- Eliminate downtime and need to reboot due to redundant architecture
- Maintain compliance with TTF's regular, stringent security audits

Solution

Appgate SDP, an industry-leading ZTNA solution, provided exactly what TTF needed, including fine-grained security to ensure each user has access only to the resources they need to do their job—and nothing more.

After vetting the plan with its movie studio clients (an impressive list that includes Marvel, Disney and Lucas Films) TTF was able to extend its air gap network from the studio walls to any remote user. Getting up and running with Appgate SDP was "painless" and took only four days:

- The Third Floor IT started on a Saturday and prepped over the weekend
- On Monday, onboarded first group of employees
- By Tuesday, their most critical employees were online and working securely

There were no complaints from end users because the interface is clean and frictionless If an artist is working on a confidential project, they can easily be given access in a highly secure manner. All resources still live inside the studio's IT walls but users have a window into that resource—and that resource alone.

Oddo describes the solution as "a lifesaver" and is thinking ahead to future use cases: "We feel like Appgate is our new next-generation solution. After the pandemic, we will use it for a lot of other things."

INDUSTRY
Motion pictures and film

USE CASES
VPN replacement

Third-party access

CHALLENGES
Sudden shift to 100% work-from-home model

Needed to maintain stringent security to protect intellectual property of TTF's clients

Hardware VPN was unreliable, required too much effort to configure and maintain

Needed to quickly secure projects to keep business moving

BENEFITS
Quick solution deployment

Saved time and frustration with smooth end-user onboarding

Simple to configure policies, conditions and entitlements for all users, devices and workloads

Secure remote working solution allows TTF to recruit talent outside the LA region

"Appgate SDP is my new favorite technology tool. It's awesome to see the power of network micro-segmentation in action: You can see where people are going based on the resources you make available to them, which helps the security team make better decisions over time."

Jeremy Oddo, director or technology

About Appgate

Appgate is the secure access company. We empower how people work and connect by providing solutions purpose-built on Zero Trust security principles. This people-defined security approach enables fast, simple and secure connections from any device and location to workloads across any IT infrastructure in cloud, on-premises and hybrid environments. Learn more at appgate.com