



Metal manufacturer implements Secure Flex Premium to boost resiliency and strengthen network security

The ELLWOOD Group is a manufacturing company specializing in custom-engineered metal components with 25+ locations was operating on point-to-point networks and a legacy MPLS service, which lacked the resiliency and security standards for their industry. They needed a reliable, dedicated single-instance solution that could be implemented rapidly and customized without overburdening their IT staff.

At a glance



Industry

Manufacturing

Customer

25+ locations across North America

2,000+ employees

Challenges

Legacy networks

Substandard cybersecurity

Overburdened IT team

Solutions

IT Managed Services

Secure Flex Premium

+ SD-WAN high availability

+ Firewalls

+ Cloud-managed switches

Dual Ethernet connections

Results

Resilient connectivity

Co-management control

Compliant with security standards

Single-vendor solution

Eased burden on IT staff

Need for greater resiliency and control

ELLWOOD's MPLS service and point-to-point networks lacked resiliency and didn't deliver on executives' desire for co-management control. The company's manual failover process was cumbersome, and the bandwidth of their stand-by connection sat idle until it was required.

Windstream Enterprise proposed the Secure Flex Premium solution, powered by Fortinet. The tech stack includes high-availability SD-WAN, secure firewalls and cloud-managed switches.

Windstream Enterprise replaced the ELLWOOD's legacy internet access with two Ethernet connections—one from Windstream Enterprise and a second from an alternate provider—eliminating a single point of failure.

This highly resilient solution optimizes uptime with high-availability SD-WAN devices and diverse Ethernet connections, ensuring an automated failover if one of the SD-WAN devices goes down or if one of the access connections drops.

ELLWOOD now has additional bandwidth, as dual circuits operate in an active/active configuration, enabling all applications to function at peak performance.

Secure Flex Premium also provides a single pane of glass with complete visibility and the co-management control that the client requires.

“Choosing Windstream Enterprise was easy, as they demonstrated the network capabilities and security expertise to meet our needs in a timely manner.”

Rich Owrey
VP of IT
ELLWOOD Group

Top-notch cybersecurity required

ELLWOOD supplies products to the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) and needed to meet the agency's stringent current and future security requirements, including Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC) and Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) for encryption.

Their previous solution could not meet those standards. Windstream Enterprise engineers and IT Managed Services team members met with ELLWOOD's IT team led by Rich Owrey, VP of IT, to understand their security requirements and to ensure that current and future DoD standards could, and would, be met. The fact that Secure Flex Premium was a single-tenant solution was a key factor.

Secure Flex Premium delivered a strong firewall and other advanced security features to meet the current CMMC compliance standards required by the DoD—plus ELLWOOD can be upgraded quickly to meet future standards. Windstream Enterprise's cybersecurity mesh architecture automated and synchronized protection for all of the client's end-users across all of their locations, enabling them to securely connect to both public and private clouds.

Overcoming staffing challenges

ELLWOOD had a limited number of IT staff and needed support in designing, deploying and managing a new network with a robust cybersecurity solution.

The solution included the end-to-end support of Windstream Enterprise's IT Managed Services team, shepherding the company through the planning, design and implementation phases, as well as taking care of ongoing management.

"The IT Managed Services team at Windstream Enterprise managed the on-time delivery of the technology installations and enabled our IT staff to focus on business innovation" says Owrey.

Our managed connectivity, communications and security solutions are innovative. Your business outcomes are imperative.

"Secure Flex Premium and IT Managed Services from Windstream Enterprise are an ideal solution tailored to help our team overcome the specific challenges that we faced."

Rich Owrey
VP of IT
ELLWOOD Group

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