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NETGOVERN DELIVERS THE RIGHT EMAIL ARCHIVING AND MIGRATION SOLUTION WHILE STREAMLINING EDISCOVERY

NetGovern helped the Seminole Electric Cooperative migrate from GroupWise to Exchange, and implement email archiving post-migration to make responding to occasional eDiscovery requests effortless.

CLIENT OVERVIEW

Seminole Electric Cooperative is one of the largest generation and transmission cooperatives in the U.S. Its primary mission is to provide reliable, competitively-priced wholesale electric power to its 10 Member systems, which include four of the largest distribution cooperatives in the nation.

Approximately 1.7 million individuals and businesses in portions of 45 Florida counties rely on Seminole's Member systems for electricity. Seminole is led by an experienced management group and governed by a 30-member board of trustees. The board is comprised of three representatives from each Member system

VITAL STATS

- Client since 2013
- 700 users
- EPA, NERC, and SOX compliance
- Powering 1.7 million individuals and businesses

BUSINESS CHALLENGE

In 2013, the Florida-based Seminole Electric Cooperative decided to migrate its GroupWise system to Exchange to make it easier to integrate the mail system with other products as well as provide a familiar email platform for the younger generation joining the organization. However, when they began researching available solutions, they soon discovered that many of the solutions on the market, including the Quest solution from Dell, were priced too high for what would ultimately be a single-use email migration tool. Then they discovered NetGovern whose price point was more in line with the budget set aside for the project.

In the original scope of work, Seminole Electric only planned to perform an email migration, but soon discovered that, along with the migration tool, NetGovern included a unified email archiving solution.

"Having a unified email archiving solution was a real plus," remembers Steve Saunders, Director of Information Systems at Seminole Electric Cooperative. "From an IT perspective, we killed two birds with one stone. At first we were only considering implementing the migration component of NetGovern, but it quickly became clear that in today's society, email archiving is absolutely necessary."

Despite the fact that the electric company doesn't receive many eDiscovery requests, they must comply with regulations like the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), and the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (SOX). So in order to satisfy the occasional eDiscovery request, end users were relied upon to perform their own personal archiving using the functionality provided by GroupWise Personal Archives. "We were involved in litigation in the past and it was extremely time-consuming to try to satisfy subpoena requests performing searches through GroupWise Personal

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Archives," says Saunders.

CRITICAL REQUIREMENTS

1. Find a reasonably-priced solution to migrate the electric company from Novell GroupWise to Microsoft Exchange.

2. Streamline the eDiscovery process by reducing the amount of time and energy required to respond to occasional eDiscovery requests.

3. Implement regularly-scheduled email archiving for the entire organization.

PRODUCT PERFORMANCE

Since the migration, the electric company sees the primary business benefit as a matter of saving time during eDiscovery, noting that what used to take hours responding to an eDiscovery request in GroupWise, now takes seconds using NetGovern, and saving money, adding that NetGovern was approximately one-third the price of the other solutions they were considering.

SUCCESS FACTORS

As for the migration to Exchange, the Director of IS recalls the experience at Seminole Electric Cooperative as relatively trouble-free and an overall positive experience. "There may have been some minor glitches," Saunders says, "but we received excellent help from the NetGovern. The experience was very positive, very professional." During the migration, the company also took advantage of a number of useful documents that NetGovern provided, in particular a comparison document that illustrates how you perform a function in GroupWise versus how you perform the same function in Outlook, and picked up some pointers on email policy along the way.

THE BOTTOM LINE

"If I had a colleague in a similar organization, I would definitely recommend NetGovern. I think the migration tool represents an amazing bang for the buck. And the rest of the platform is priced reasonably-enough that you can continue to use NetGovern for your archiving needs, too."

Steve Saunders
Director of Information Systems
Seminole Electric Cooperative

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