



## Case Study

# Doing More With Less

## Network Technology Improves Operations & Reduces Expenses

For more than three decades, MWI Components has operated on one premise, delivering specialized metal products in the post-frame building industry. Serving customers across the United States and Canada, MWI manufactures a variety of products from cupolas to TempShield Insulation, and even items like horse stalls.

As operations grow, Katie Techen, Controller, was exploring strategies to upgrade some of their technology that would result in improved efficiency, security protection, and minimize capital expenditures. Techen reached out to local technology experts at RDI for help.

### The Challenge

MWI needed solutions that were capable of handling their wide variety of needs while maintaining budget-conscious operational decisions. With a holistic approach to

technology security and managed services, RDI set out to create a comprehensive roadmap that would assist MWI without breaking their budget. With these goals in mind, RDI created a solution package based on the following requirements.

### MWI Components Requirements

1. Decrease CapEx with new technology
  - improve operational efficiencies by investing in technology that would last and grow with changes in their production needs.
2. Enhance firewall capabilities and security
  - to protect manufacturing techniques and essential business data
3. Increase productivity and efficiency while decreasing necessary hardware
  - simplify and streamline equipment needed to run daily operations with ease.

## The Solution

- **Server Management/Virtual Machine Server (VM Server)** – provide access to necessary network components without the need for a physical server.
- **Data Backups** – secure off-site data backups for data replication, protection, and disaster recovery preparedness.
- **Managed Firewalls** – to enhance network security protocols and keep data and staff secure during operations.

## The Implementation

Once a strategy was developed to fulfill MWI's requirements, RDI installed these updated solutions in MWI's facilities with minimal interruption to daily operations. The most effective approach to meet MWI's needs was to provide them with ongoing, managed services as opposed to a break-fix solution.

The most critical service being the virtualization of MWI's servers through Server Management Services. RDI installed a customized VM Server Cluster giving MWI a multitude of benefits over their old servers. The new VM Server Cluster allows for multiple procedures to operate simultaneously, meaning one server can support both manufacturing and domain controller environments. VM Server Cluster gives MWI the ability to do more with less hardware, increasing their server efficiency and helping them save on capital expenditures.

With an increased risk for fires and other disaster situations in a production environment, having multiple sets of backup data is crucial for MWI. RDI's data backup service, maintains three sets of backup data, one set being off-site. When creating a network-attached storage (NAS) copy of backup data, RDI takes precautions to securely hide the path to your NAS, mitigating the risks of malware reaching your backup. This ensures MWI will always have access to at least one of their 3 data backups in case of a data loss or disaster recovery scenario.

The final critical service worth mentioning is RDI's managed firewalls and security. RDI deployed High Availability (HA) firewalls, which is a group of 2 synchronized firewalls designed to prevent a single point of failure in MWI's network. The synchronization of the two firewalls ensures seamless failover, so MWI will remain protected even if one of the firewalls goes down.

RDI's capability to deliver on all of MWI's requirements and our commitment to providing all of our partners with Full-Circle service is what made RDI the optimal choice for MWI. RDI treats all of our partners with respect and honesty, providing timely responses, accurate communication, and ongoing support in order to serve them best.

## The Results

With the assistance of RDI, MWI has experienced high-functioning servers, redundant data backups, and firewall services with continuous ongoing support from our expert technicians. RDI is proud to partner with companies like MWI Components, providing them with the best technology services to help grow their business.

