

STABILITY IS THE KEY

Case Study



CUSTOMER

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

WEBSITE

imf.org

LOCATIONS

Headquartered in Washington, DC, 189 Member Countries

INDUSTRY

Government

At a glance:

The IMF promotes global growth and economic stability by encouraging countries to adopt sound economic policies.

Situation:

The International Monetary Fund needed to implement a robust Active Directory-integrated DNS infrastructure that would maintain the same functionality and manageability they had achieved from their legacy application.

Solution:

The Men & Mice Suite provides the IMF with strong audit features, granular role-based access and a common interface for administration:

- * DNS Management
- * IP Address Management
- * DHCP Management

Task and Solution

The International Monetary Fund was created in 1945 to help promote the health of the world economy through international monetary cooperation. Headquartered in Washington, DC, it is governed by and accountable to the governments of the 189 countries that make up its global membership. The organization employs nearly 2,700 people from 148 countries.

To manage its DNS infrastructure, the IMF used the standard Windows tools for many years. While the tools provided the basic functionality and manageability needed, they didn't meet the increasing needs of an ever-growing DNS global infrastructure. Specifically, the IMF desired robust audit features, a common interface for administration of its Windows DNS and DHCP, granular role-based access and the ability to more easily manage split-scope configurations in DHCP.

"The Windows tools worked well for us for a number of years," says Tom Ferris, Senior IT Officer at the IMF. "But we simply outgrew them. We needed a solution that would meet our requirements today and in the future."

Once the IMF decided to search for an external solution, they moved quickly, researching and evaluating systems within a few months. In addition to finding a solution that provided central management tools, it was imperative to the IMF team that the solution would work with their existing DNS infrastructure.

Men & Mice met - and exceeded - the requirements.

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- Tom Ferris, Senior IT Officer, IMF.

Leverage and Compatibility

The Men & Mice Suite allowed the IMF to leverage their infrastructure investments by providing a sophisticated management layer on top of their existing DNS and DHCP servers. Because of its non-intrusive and easy deployment as well as intuitive user interface, the Men & Mice Suite was the logical solution for the IMF.

"There was a huge advantage in finding a solution that complemented the systems we already had in place," says Ferris. "It wasn't an option for us to start over or to select a solution that wasn't intuitive."

Another significant advantage was the fact that Men & Mice would enable compatibility between Microsoft and UNIX systems, providing easier administration, less complexity and more efficiency across the IMF's global teams.

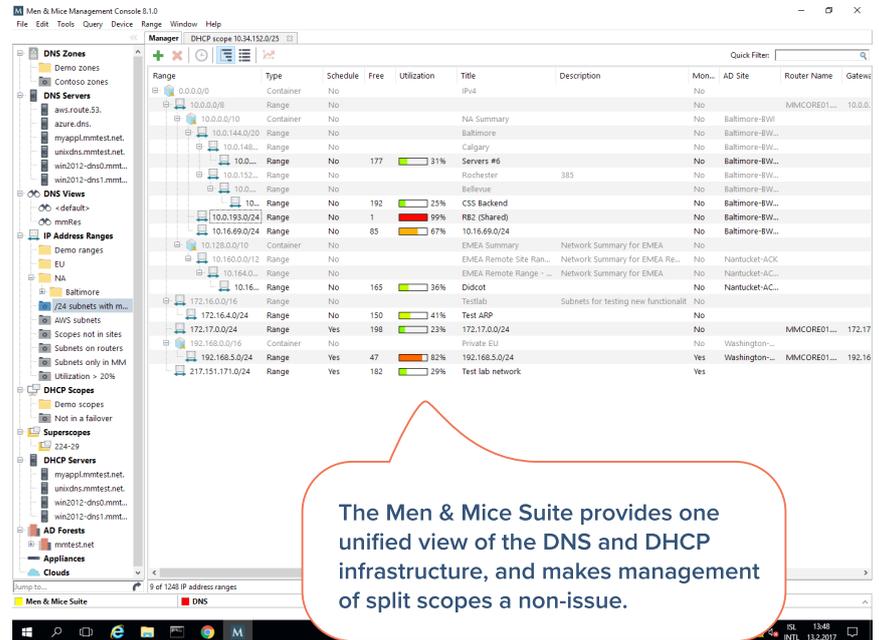
Meeting and Exceeding Strategies

Sean Marshall, principal network engineer at the IMF, echoes Ferris' thoughts. "With our prior system, we didn't have a central Web interface but rather were managing multiple interfaces," he says. "Now, we support one interface. The process is simply a lot 'cleaner' and enables us to operate more efficiently." Indeed.

Marshall notes that the common interface and role-based access have eased the burden the IMF's server team once felt since a broader range of people, specifically, the IMF's network operations team, has access to DNS administration.

The savings are equivalent of one-half of a full-time position.

"Men & Mice closed the gap and enabled us to pursue our strategies." Tom Ferris, Senior IT Officer, IMF



Clear and Integrated View

Instead of manually administering tens of hundreds of DNS and DHCP servers, with no clear overview of the IP address space, the Men & Mice Suite consolidates critical data in an intuitive interface that provides on logical and unified view of the network infrastructure.

Non-Intrusive, Stepwise Deployment

Key to the IMF choosing the Men & Mice Suite was the fact that the organization could keep its existing DNS and DHCP servers, Active Directory domain controllers and their configuration. The Men & Mice Suite simply adds a management layer on top of them and provides scalable and secure management capabilities.

An important feature lacking in the IMF's former system was the ability to maintain a chronologically correct audit trail, as well as historical logging of the changes being made. The IMF can be assured that regulatory compliance is met through the logging of all activities in real time.

KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE

Globally recognized as experts in the research, training, consulting and software development of DNS, DHCP and IP Address Management products, Men & Mice prides ourselves on offering solutions that adapt to our customers' needs. We don't expect our customers to adapt their needs to suit our solutions.

Easy and Secure Task Delegation

The Men & Mice Suite allows senior network administrators to define granular and flexible subdivisions of the IP address space and grant specified users and user groups limited privileges to perform well-defined tasks, such as adding a new device to the network. These users get an easy-to-use browser based "sandbox" interface where they can easily perform their allowed tasks.

When relying solely upon server-native management consoles, for example, a junior administrator would have the ability to delete an entire scope, taking down a significant portion of network services. All access to Windows servers can be lost for hours. With the Men & Mice Suite, however, such errors are simply not possible.

One of the founding cornerstones of the IMF is stability. The IMF needed a stable and secure solution that would meet its needs and strategies today and into the future. With the Men & Mice Suite, the IMF can be confident in its choice.

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- Tom Ferris, Senior IT Officer, IMF

