Surprise Savings for a Major E-Commerce Company

One of the world's largest online retailers requires strong distributed networking. As a multinational IT company serving industries such as e-commerce, digital streaming, and cloud computing, global connectivity is key to their customer satisfaction. When this Fortune 500 business needed to improve networking at its distribution centers, ZPE Systems introduced Nodegrid — and opened a world of new possibilities.

The Challenge

The company wanted to improve networking at their distribution centers by adding out-of-band capabilities. Traditionally, this would have meant installing a network switch along with an out-of-band device at each main distribution frame (MDF). This potential solution would have led to not only one-time CAPEX, but to other ongoing and assumed expenditures.

When they discovered the Nodegrid Services Router (NSR), they realized how much more they could improve their network design beyond simply adding OOB.

Because the NSR features add-on serial, network, and compute modules, the company could address the traditional solution's inherent drawbacks, such as

- Wasted rack space
- Wasted energy and cooling resources
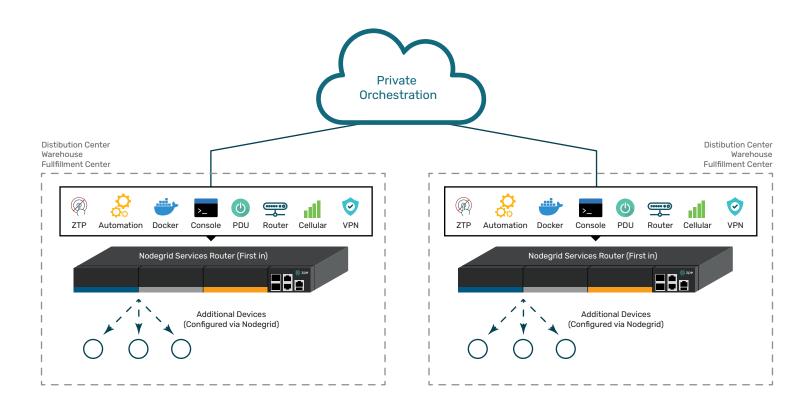- Wasted time on deployment & management

They also required a device that could integrate with their automation-heavy environment. For all of this, Nodegrid was put to the test.

With an all-in-one solution at their fingertips, the e-commerce giant didn't hesitate to deploy the NSR.

At each MDF, the company connected the NSR to deliver OOB to their critical systems. However, they also added port expansion modules to the powerful Nodegrid appliance. This allowed them to expand their management capabilities to serial & networking devices at each intermediate distribution frame (IDF) — all without expanding their stack.

The NSR provided another bonus thanks to its robust Nodegrid OS. Using the software's built-in support for guest OS, the company deployed their proprietary automation application directly on the NSR. This meant seamless integration to support zero touch provisioning and automatic configuration management, which were crucial to distribution center operations.

With Nodegrid, the enterprise gained secure out-of-band connectivity to their warehouse networks using a modular, resource-saving solution.

The NSR's modularity gave the enterprise a single gateway through which they could connect to their stack. Instead of deploying separate switches and out-of-band devices, the company needed only the NSR.

At each distribution center, the company kept their MDF streamlined while gaining convenient remote access to IDF closets and other critical systems.

Because the NSR supports application hosting and automation, the company also found it easy to integrate the Nodegrid solution into their heavily-automated environment. For existing builds, this allowed for effort-less retrofitting and consolidation, and for new builds, the NSR platform provided seamless implementation of zero touch provisioning and the company's custom kick-off application.

The Benefits

The company realized that they didn't have to assume the disadvantages inherent to traditional solutions. Deploying the NSR at their distribution centers introduced not only the secure OOB capabilities they aimed for, but also:

- Savings on energy, cooling resources, and physical rack space
- Savings on management time & effort, with only one device to configure & maintain
- Convenient access to their stack thanks to a modular, all-in-one appliance
- Streamlined integration for disruption-free deployments & customer satisfaction

Having a single device for serial and networking connectivity delivered surprise savings to the enterprise.

Aside from one-time CAPEX expenditures, the NSR also addressed ongoing OPEX costs by providing a consolidated management platform for MDF & IDF stacks. For maintenance, upgrades, security patches, & more, network staff could simply roll out changes on a single Nodegrid device instead of having to juggle several appliances from different vendors.

The NSR helps the company remain future-proof thanks to built-in support for application hosting, automa-tion, and add-on modules. To accommodate changing business needs, the enterprise can simply deploy new applications, modify automated operations, or bolt on serial, ethernet, cellular, & other expansion cards.

For companies large and small, the all-in-one Nodegrid Services Router lays the foundation for open networking that's flexible.

To see if surprise savings are waiting for you, call or visit our website to schedule your Nodegrid demo.