



Enhanced Network Solutions Group

Case Study: **Superior Essex**

Background:

Superior Essex is a global leader in the design, manufacture and supply of wire and cable products. We are the world's largest producer of magnet wire, also known as winding wire, an insulated copper or aluminum conductor used by major original equipment manufacturers and distributors. In North America, we are the industry leader in outside plant copper communications wire and cable products. We also manufacture and supply fiber optic cables and premises copper cables.

Superior Essex operates 26 manufacturing facilities in the United States, Mexico, France, Germany, Canada, Italy, the United Kingdom, Portugal and China. We have more than 4,400 employees working around the world to supply the quality products that are essential to the operation of a wide variety of everyday household items and critical to day-to-day business operations.

The Challenge:

Superior Essex (SE) has a very competent, resourceful and well trained internal technology staff. This technology staff is well equipped to handle Superior Essex' technology planning and day-to-day infrastructure support needs. Occasional, Superior Essex will seek the expertise of ENS consultants to assist them with background technical information or project implementation design. Recently, ENS was contacted by Superior Essex to assist with merging the Fort Wayne operation's Microsoft Active Directory (AD) forest into the AD forest of the Atlanta, Georgia division. ENS was engaged to determine the steps necessary for this migration and produce a consulting document that outlined these steps along with time estimates and potential costs.

The Solution:

ENS consulted with Superior Essex's technology staff in Fort Wayne, Indiana and Atlanta, Georgia to familiarize itself with the company's environment. In the process ENS gathered information about server hardware and software, relevant application configurations, workstation operating systems and application configuration, workstation deployment procedures and LAN and WAN infrastructure.

Following the initial information gathering process and a review of the documentation provided by Superior Essex, ENS researched the applications utilized by the company to determine the impact of the AD forest merger on their continued operation. When this research was complete, ENS produced documentation outlining the steps required to merge the AD information, server applications, workstations and their respective applications, and any other relevant technology resources. A list of hardware and software licensing required for the project was also detailed. Finally, ENS prepared a timeline and labor estimates for each phase of the merger process, along with the technical expertise required of those carrying out the tasks.

With this document, Superior Essex was able to better understand the process that would be required and the impact on their business environment. Specifically, this consulting engagement allowed Superior Essex insight into potential down time related to specific phases, associated costs and the relevant costs to ensure that they were in compliance with Microsoft's licensing requirements both during and after the merge. 🐾



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