

Allegany Insurance Group Simplifies its Disaster Recovery Strategy with iland, now 11:11 Systems, and Veeam

SOLUTIONS: DRaaS

Client Profile

The Allegany Insurance Group provides personal and commercial line insurance policies, including farm insurance, through a network of over 400 select independent agents in New York and Pennsylvania. Driven to be the go-to insurer for partner agents throughout the region, Allegany leads with a commitment to cutting-edge automation, product selection, and personal service. It has received an "A" rating from AM Best for over 25 years.

Disaster Recovery, Simplified

Before turning to 11:11 Cloud DRaaS for Veeam, Allegany's business continuity strategy required an unnecessary amount of in-house heavy lifting. At the time, the company was operating a secondary data center with redundant hardware purely for disaster recovery purposes. The day-to-day attention and maintenance required to sustain the two locations unduly taxed Allegany's small IT team of valuable resources.

Unfortunately, all that added time and effort didn't necessarily do more to mitigate the risk of downtime for Allegany. As a small business operating in a relatively rural area, the company had but one choice when it came to internet services. This 100 mbps fiber connection, although generally reliable, was responsible for keeping Allegany's two locations connected and the business up and running. Making matters worse, its two offices were located only a couple hours apart, meaning, if an outage or disaster were to occur that impacted both regions, the company would be unable to failover and stay online.

Benjamin Hewitt, Vice President and CIO at Allegany since 2013, knew it was time to upgrade the company's security and overall efficiency. No longer wanting to maintain two locations or be at the mercy of an internet service provider for connectivity, he turned to the cloud to make life easier for himself and his team.

"Our chief goals were to reduce the need to host our own hardware and rely on our local internet connection for redundancy across the business," said Hewitt. "Rather than carrying that burden ourselves, it just seemed much easier to address our issues by turning to a cloud provider like [11:11]."

CHALLENGES

- Aging infrastructure
- Undue strain on small IT staff
- Reliance on inadequate internet connection for redundancy
- Lack of geographically diverse recovery locations
- Enable secure and reliable access to data
- Increasing cybersecurity threats

SOLUTIONS

- 11:11 Cloud DRaaS for Veeam

BENEFITS

- Continuous data availability and business uptime
- Platform control and flexibility
- Predictable pricing with no hidden fees
- Seamless integration with Veeam
- Innovative and comprehensive service in line with company objectives

PROFILE

- Size: SMB
- Industry: Construction

RETHINK CONNECTED

“There were a number of big factors that led us to choose [11:11 Systems] including its ease of setup, competitive pricing, and reputation as an industry leader. [11:11] allowed us to greatly simplify our DR strategy and save on expenses like redundant servers, fiber internet, and our secondary building. I haven’t quantified all of the savings, but it’s been significant.”

Benjamin Hewitt, Vice President and CIO at Allegany Insurance Group

[11:11 Systems]: An Industry Leader in DRaaS and Savings

Hewitt knew that the company’s relatively small server footprint lent itself to replication in the cloud and that doing so could potentially save his team time, resources, and future headaches.

Since Allegany already used Veeam®, the leader in backup, recovery and data management solutions that deliver Modern Data Protection, for backup on premises, Hewitt sought a partner that could integrate seamlessly while implementing disaster recovery in the cloud. [11:11], the industry’s only five-time winner of Veeam’s Impact Cloud and Service Provider Partner award and a recognized leader in disaster recovery, represented a perfect fit.

With [11:11] Secure Cloud DRaaS for Veeam, Hewitt was able to meet all his business objectives and greatly simplify the company’s disaster recovery plan. Allegany no longer had to rely on its fiber internet connection or maintain its secondary data center, saving money and freeing Hewitt to focus on more pertinent business initiatives. In fact, the move to [11:11] allowed the company to sell its secondary office altogether. [11:11]’s global network of data centers also allowed Hewitt to select a more strategic replication location further removed from the company’s headquarters.

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ALLEGANY INSURANCE GROUP CASE STUDY

Critically Compliant Data That's Ransomware Ready

As an insurance carrier regulated by the Department of Financial Services, cybersecurity is naturally a high priority for Allegany. That burden falls largely on Hewitt, who must keep a close eye on the ever-changing IT landscape. Recently, that's meant monitoring the steady rise in threats like ransomware, which has become the fastest growing type of cybercrime, impacting a new organization once every 11 seconds, according to research by Cybersecurity Ventures.

Unplanned downtime can often result in irrecoverable, long-term damage to the company. Whether from cybercrime, hardware failure, or natural disasters, the impact of a disaster event can often be felt for years in terms of revenue loss, customer churn, or the inability to continue business operations.

"The DFS, our state regulatory body, has really increased their attention to cyber security-related issues over the last few years," said Hewitt. "I feel confident about our next audit, knowing that we have [11:11] Secure Cloud DRaaS up and replicating in a geographically separate area to protect against threats like ransomware."

As a global cloud provider, [11:11] is focused on helping organizations take advantage of all that the cloud has to offer, enabling them to focus on business innovation. Luckily, security has been a critical part of the [11:11] DNA from the very beginning. As internal and external threats evolve, so too does [11:11]'s platform approach to protecting data. In Allegany's case, [11:11] Secure DRaaS with Veeam provided the security, replication, and failover capabilities it needed to ensure its business is always online and in compliance with state regulations.

[11:11] provides the highest levels of security capabilities and features available today, integrated with all services, and ready to adapt to today's ever-increasing security requirements. From Secure Public or Private Cloud (IaaS) to Secure Disaster Recovery as a Service (DRaaS) and Secure Cloud Backup as a Service (BaaS), which can include Insider Protection to further protect organizations from internal rogue actors, [11:11] is able to offer the solutions and support needed to protect your data.



RETHINK CONNECTED



CLOUD



CONNECTIVITY



SECURITY

11:11
SYSTEMS