

County governments deal with property taxes, zoning data, voter registration, banking access, engineering road projects and much more. Internet outages are not an option.

## CASE STUDY

Sioux County, located in the northwest corner of Iowa, supports a population of over 33,000 within 16 towns and cities.

As opposed to Sioux County's LAN, where they have greater control, the reliability and performance of the Internet had been for the most part, out of their direct control.

The issues they were confronted with included affordable and flexible scalability, network reliability, and the increase in the number of web applications such as voter registration, and other applications that can overload the Internet connections, causing network congestion and bottlenecks. Add to this the compounding effects of service provider outages, which placed added pressures on IT staff.

"Property taxes, zoning data, voter registration, banking access, engineering road projects—this is just the tip of the iceberg our county government deals with—and Internet outages are not an option," said Micah Van Maanen, Information Technology Director for Sioux County, Iowa.

Sioux County made the decision to build in WAN redundancy by replacing their single T1 Internet connection with two SDSL Internet connections. They deployed PowerLink WAN link controllers in their datacenter to automatically load balance inbound and outbound network traffic amongst the two connections, and to provide failover in the event that one of the connections has an outage.

Sioux County also uses PowerLink's Authoritative DNS server functionality to manage their inbound traffic. Because they were hosting their websites internally, when a user types in their web address, PowerLink automatically directs users to the Internet connection that is performing the best at that time. If one of the Internet connections is down, PowerLink sends users to the IP address of the Internet connection that is working.

The county now no longer lacks the WAN infrastructure to deliver the appropriate reliability, performance and security; they have also realized significant bandwidth savings:

- The T1 connection was costing the county \$650/month, while the two SDSL connections together cost just \$225/month, an annual savings of \$5,100
- Due to the bandwidth savings, Sioux County had a positive ROI in just over 1 year



*"There isn't a network service provider that is going to provide 100% uptime. PowerLink protects us in the event that we have a network outage. To me it's cost-effective insurance."*

*"Since we purchased the PowerLink, we have had no downtime."*