

Transport Topics

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C.R. England Upgrades Private Data Network

Refrigerated carrier C.R. England Inc. said it's switch to a virtual private network for transmitting all information between it's headquarters and branch offices has increased data capacity and security.

Dirk Anderson, the Salt Lake City company's vice president of technology, said it installed the virtual private network to replace a frame relay system. The "VPN allowed us to provide an increase of eight times more bandwidth for about the same cost as frame relay" network, Anderson told Transport Topics.

A VPN is private communications system that transmits data over a link to the Internet, as opposed to a frame relay system that transmits data from a leased line.

Chris Driscoll, information technology and logistics editor at the Technology & Maintenance Council, said carriers have been installing VPNs during the past few years

because of the improved reliability and bandwidth. "It's like using the information highway, but having a lane to yourself."

England also improved security by developing a redundant system to save data in case of a power failure, the company said. It said it uses different Internet Service providers for its primary and backup systems.

England worked with FatPipe Networks and Trusted Network Solutions to develop the VPN, Anderson said. "If they had stayed with frame [relay], that kind of speed would have cost them an additional \$15,000 a month," said David Norwood, president of TNS.

The company did not say how much it cost to install the VPN for its 35 locations.

CR England ranks No. 43 on the Transport Topics 100 list of the largest U.S. and Canadian for-hire carriers. It is the second-largest refrigerated carrier on the list.

-Tarun Reddy