

**INDUSTRY**

Founded in 1966, McNaughton Newspapers is a local, family owned group of daily and weekly newspapers located throughout Northern California. McNaughton delivers local news and advertising to over 50,000 households and business' throughout Solano, Yolo and El Dorado counties. McNaughton Newspapers Inc. is the Corporate owner of 7 Regional Newspapers: the Davis Enterprise, the Mountain Democrat, the Winters Express, Folsom Life, Cameron Park Life and El Dorado Hills Life. Their flagship publication, The Daily Republic, has been the stable source of news for Solano County affairs for over a century. The Daily Republic was founded in the late 1850's as the Solano Republican, and over the course of the last 150 years, has delivered honest, locally focused news to over 20,000 daily paying subscribers.

CommuniGate Pro connects California reporters**CHALLENGE**

The McNaughton Newspaper family has been a loyal customer of CommuniGate Pro since 2001. Prior to implementing CommuniGate Pro, they tried a number of various messaging solutions that were widely accepted as mainstream, including deploying the Eudora EIMS mail server for Macs. Unfortunately, the rolled-out Eudora solution didn't contain basic e-mail functions, and was platform specific to Mac OS9. The performance expectations that we sought after their initial implementation of the EIMS mail server were not met – and there was little room for them to upgrade, or incorporate new technology with this solution.

As is the case with most companies in the media and entertainment sector, McNaughton needed a fast and reliable communications solution to connect remote users: with their colleagues, other reporters, art work departments and the central office. Interoperability was also key to McNaughton. They needed a solution that would be compatible across all operating systems. Additionally, they required a more powerful communications server solution that would grow and expand with them as their publications did.

SOLUTION

Advertising and publications businesses rely on effective and stable communications as part of their day to day operations. Users need to be able to access all forms of Internet Communications at any time and from any place, ideally having one storage and one address space to unify all forms of communication. A fast and reliable communications solution provides a good foundation for Media and Entertainment companies to stay on top of their competitors.

For more than half-a-decade, McNaughton Newspapers has implemented and realized the benefits of the CommuniGate Pro solution. Since their initial implementation, the number of daily users has doubled, and as they expand, CommuniGate Pro has more than met their expectations. "We implemented CommuniGate Pro about seven years ago with around 150 user accounts. Since then, we have grown to almost 300 without CommuniGate Pro missing a beat. CommuniGate Pro just plain works – by far the least problematic service our IT staff has had to support."

CommuniGate Pro solved the problems McNaughton encountered and were dealing with on a daily basis. The stability CommuniGate Pro provides to McNaughton's communication system is unparalleled. "CommuniGate Pro greatly outperforms our prior solution. We make great use of the IMAP and LDAP protocols. That combined with web-mail create a powerful and secure communications solution," added Chief Information Officer Mr. Joe Boydston.

SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE

McNaughton Newspapers has eight offices at various locations throughout California. Their end-user requirements' at each office varies dramatically, but generally their employees run CommuniGate Pro on the Mac OS9 platform. Mr. Boydston has deployed the CommuniGate Pro communications server on a single Pentium 4, 2.5Ghz PC, with a 250gb hard drive, running Windows XP. While this technology setup fills their current requirements, they are soon hoping to move from a Windows based CommuniGate Server, to Mac OSX, and thanks to the architecture of CommuniGate Pro, McNaughton Newspapers will have an easy-hassle free migration during this time.

BENEFITS

CommuniGate Pro provides McNaughton Newspapers with a string of endless benefits and possibilities. CommuniGate Pro is cost competitive and strives to keep ahead of industry standards. "CommuniGate Pro performs well on modest hardware, incorporating a wide platform base (we have run CommuniGate on Windows 2000, XP, Linux, Mac OSX). The low maintenance cost in comparison to Microsoft Exchange was one of the major factors in our decision to turn to CommuniGate Pro," added Mr. Boydston.

McNaughton Newspapers can be rest-assured that if any unforeseen problem does come up, that the CommuniGate Pro tech-support team is fully working behind the scenes to come to a quick and acceptable solution. "Support at CommuniGate Systems has been more than helpful. Whenever we do have had problems, the tech support team at CommuniGate Systems helped us to resolve our problems in a timely fashion. The frequent updates and the instructive mailing list are helpful in diagnosing and solving problems. Otherwise we have enjoyed zero unplanned downtime in the past seven years. By far the most well made software product we use," concluded Mr. Boydston.

