

**STONESOFT**



**Case Study- Susman Godfrey L.L.P.**

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## **Susman Godfrey Brings Security Solution In-house**

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# Susman Godfrey Brings Security Solution In-house

StoneGate helps Susman Godfrey provide better customer service and offers a competitive edge and reduced IT costs with highly available, secure platform.

Susman Godfrey L.L.P., one of the nation's top litigation law firms with employees in Houston, Dallas, Seattle, and Los Angeles, boasts a high-profile-client list including an array of fortune 500 companies and government institutions. The firm, which has been in business for 25 years, prides itself on its ability to resolve disputes quickly and favorably. Since its inception the firm has recovered over \$2.2 billion for its clients.

Susman Godfrey devotes approximately 60 percent of their time to litigation under agreements that tie compensation to the results they achieve. Working at their own risk and expense requires that the lawyers have efficient work habits while maintaining the highest quality of service. Susman Godfrey cannot afford to have any downtime or missed deadlines because of network issues.

When Susman Godfrey needed to replace their existing firewall and VPN solutions they considered several vendors including Stonesoft's StoneGate platform. In evaluating their options it was critical that the chosen solution would increase overall uptime and streamline business processes while reducing costs and utilize their plan to add an additional ISP.

## A Desire to Bring a Cost- Effective Solution In-house

Susman Godfrey's existing solution was no longer supported and the firm was tasked with finding the most cost-effective replacement that could provide optimal performance. Ideally, the solution would bring IT management of all four offices to one central location in Houston and reduce travel time to local offices for troubleshooting. Susman Godfrey's existing solution was managed by an outside vendor, removing much of the control from Susman Godfrey's IT department.

Anytime there was a performance issue, Susman Godfrey was forced to work with a third-party to correct the problem, often resulting in unnecessary downtime and troubleshooting with financial repercussions. For every minute the firm's employees were unable to access their network the firm's lawyers, partners and more importantly, clients, suffered.

After evaluating their options the choice was easy for Susman Godfrey's technology committee. Not only was Stonesoft's StoneGate solution more

cost-effective in every way-it was also easier for the firm to support internally.

Other solutions can be very complicated and require the firm's IT department to hire specially-trained technicians. StoneGate's enterprise management is intuitive enough that the existing IT staff could support the network 100 percent. StoneGate allowed Susman Godfrey to bring complete control of their nationwide network to one central office.

Another benefit to Stonesoft's solution was its all-inclusive pricing structure. With most other vendors, clients must pay an additional fee for additional benefits whereas StoneGate's pricing is simple and comes standard with all of its enterprise features with no hidden, add-on costs. According to Haass, "Overall, Susman Godfrey was able to spend far less money and end up with a superior solution that was scalable to fit our individual needs."

## Implementing a Superior, Scalable and Highly Available Solution

Susman Godfrey was experiencing issues with its single ISP going down so the firm wanted to add a second ISP line when replacing their existing network. At the core of StoneGate is Stonesoft's patented Multi-Link technology that enables a seamless failover and load balancing between multiple ISP lines resulting in increased performance and continuous connectivity even if one of the ISPs fail.

Another unique feature Susman Godfrey took advantage of is StoneGate's active/ active clustering and firewall loadbalancing by having StoneGate clustered in each of their four locations. With this feature every StoneGate appliance is always being used so there is never a standby issue if one firewall has to be taken down for maintenance, eliminating late night or weekend maintenance windows.

Also, because each node is active in a cluster, they can capitalize on the benefits of the load balancing firewall performance, which routes traffic to the fastest firewall, eliminating network bottlenecking.

The complete StoneGate system was installed over one weekend with no downtime.

**“We are very happy with the new system. It is nice to be more independent and not depend on an outside contractor to know how to run our network. With the new StoneGate solution everything can be controlled from our headquarters by our internal IT staff.”**

**Alexa Haass, IT Director**



### **Compelling Results**

Since the installation, Susman Godfrey has not experienced any downtime with its network. “We are very happy with the new system. It is nice to be more independent and not depend on an outside contractor to know how to run our system. With the new StoneGate solution everything can be controlled from our headquarters by our internal IT staff,” said Haass.

While Susman Godfrey can still contact Stonesoft’s global 24x7x365 support facilities, they have also been assigned a dedicated engineer within Stonesoft to provide support at any time. “Stonesoft is very supportive in every way. We’ve never had a problem reaching someone regardless of the time of day or day of the week,” said Haass. “Stonesoft’s tech support is very knowledgeable and you never have to wait for a question to be answered.”

The StoneGate solution provides the performance reliability, control, and support critical to Susman Godfrey’s business processes at a minimal cost. This allows the firm to provide the best, most efficient service to their clients without having to worry about networking issues.

### **About Susman Godfrey L.L.P**

Susman Godfrey L.L.P is a law firm with 70 lawyers in Houston, Dallas, Seattle, and Los Angeles, dedicated to winning lawsuits. Although proud of the record of success at trial, often Susman Godfrey best serves its clients’ interests by resolving disputes quickly, through negotiation and favorable settlement. The firm has performed for plaintiffs in over 75 lawsuits settlements in excess of \$1 million, representing total recoveries of over \$2.2 billion. More than three-quarters of the lawyers served as members of law reviews, most as editors. Almost two-thirds clerked for federal judges, five for Justices of the United States Supreme Court. The academic credentials of the firm’s lawyers speak volumes about the quality of work you can expect from Susman Godfrey. Susman Godfrey was also a runner-up in American Lawyer’s Litigation Boutique of the Year 2004.

**“There were no challenges for us in finding the right provider. Once we became familiar with the Stonesoft solution the choice was easy.”**

**Alexa Haass, IT Director**



## Stonesoft Experience

Stonesoft Corporation (HEX: SFT1V) is an innovative provider of integrated network security and business continuity. Stonesoft is a global company focused on enterprise level customers requiring advanced network security and always-on business connectivity with low TCO, best price-to-performance ratio, and highest ROI.

StoneGate™ Platform unifies firewall, VPN and IPS, blending network security, end-to-end availability and award-winning load balancing into a unified and centrally managed system for distributed enterprises. Founded in 1990, Stonesoft Corporation has corporate headquarters in Helsinki, Finland; Americas headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia; and Asia Pacific headquarters in Singapore.

## The StoneGate Platform

The StoneGate Platform lowers the risks of doing business in a digitalized world. StoneGate appliances and software provide secured, optimized, and resilient connectivity for converged services, while preventing damage from attacks. With the help of unified management you can cost-efficiently manage and monitor the security and connectivity in your network.

### Secured, Optimized, and Resilient Connectivity

With StoneGate Firewall/VPN, you can connect your offices with each other reliably and fault-tolerantly using Site-to-Site VPN, ISP Multi-homing with Multi-Link VPN Technology, Firewall/VPN and IPS Sensor Clustering and Load Balancing, Server Load Balancing, and Quality of Service and Bandwidth Management

### Preventing the Damage From Attacks

StoneGate guards your network with StoneGate Firewall and with StoneGate IPS. StoneGate Firewall enforces your security policy, prevents denial-of-service attacks, and drops malicious http traffic. StoneGate IPS stops attacks and non-authorized traffic as well as protects unpatched servers before they are updated.

### Unified Management

The StoneGate Management Center delivers an innovative and holistic approach for role-based administration through a single, centralized management system. Forming the heart of the StoneGate Platform, the Management Center provides unified tools for Security Enforcement, for Security Surveillance, and for Systems and Data management.

# STONESOFT

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