



SDIS90 Belfort - French Fire Brigade

Quick Eagle Networks Case Study / 5840 Multiport Router

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Jean Demange
Technical Director
SDIS90 Belfort

At a Glance

Organization:

SDIS90 Belfort is one of 100 fire brigades located throughout France

Location:

Belfort Territory, France
Various remote locations

Situation:

Emergency communications network required a scalable, flexible, and high-performing router solution

Solution Used:

5840 Multiport Router

Main Benefits:

- Scalability to handle network growth
- Enhanced network reliability and performance through load sharing and load balancing
- Decreased total cost of ownership

Fire Brigade Ensures Secure and Reliable Intra-Team Emergency Communications by Leveraging Multilink and IP Routing

The Service Départemental d'Incendie et de Secours Belfort, or SDIS90 Belfort, is one of 100 fire brigades throughout France, and is responsible for protecting the Belfort area's citizens and businesses from every type of fire danger. Belfort is a highly industrialized area, widely known as a magnet for major metal-works and electronics-related manufacturing, drawing companies such as Peugeot-Citroën and General Electric. To ensure secure and reliable communication, in the face of life-threatening situations, SDIS90 Belfort's information technology department was looking for a highly scalable, flexible networking solution to interconnect their central command center and three remote locations around the territory.

Mission Critical Communications Demand Higher Flexibility

SDIS90 Belfort's geographically distributed firefighting teams needed a high-performance, secure communications infrastructure to connect their central command site to three remote locations. Colonel Jean Demange, technical director of the Belfort Territory fire brigade, contacted systems integrator Black Box France for their advice and expertise to provide a practical solution that met the need for security, future growth, and high performance.

After discussing the unique deployment requirements with Black Box France, it was determined that three high-speed 6xE1 connections between the four locations would be the best solution. However, with SDIS90 Belfort's highly sensitive transmissions in mind, it became apparent that the wide area networks (WAN) equipment required to connect all locations would have to be highly scalable, reliable, and sustain the highest security standards.

"In assessing the needs of the fire brigade in Belfort, we quickly understood that we required a solution that combined a high amount of flexibility with bandwidth scalability," said Jean-Luc La Paglia, sales director Black Box France. "Furthermore, we were looking for a solution that would allow our customer's four sites to easily collaborate and share information and, at the same time ensure ease of configuration, management and security."

Solution: Integrated Multilink, Routing and IP Probe Functions

Quick Eagle Networks, a provider of intelligent WAN access solutions, was called upon by Black Box France to provide a solution that could ensure reliable and secure transmissions between the four sites in a highly efficient manner.

Quick Eagle Solution:

5840 Multiport Router

The 5840 Multiport Router (available for NxT1/E1) is ideal for medium-sized businesses and enterprise branch offices that need routers that can scale as the network requirements grow without having to add more hardware.

With its high port density (up to 12 Mbps), the 5840 Multiport Router delivers all the functions you need in a branch office router. Optional multilink protocols (MLPPP and MLFR) provide the 5840 Multiport Router with the capability to bond multiple T1/E1s into a single high-speed virtual link or enable load balancing applications.

“Quick Eagle’s 5840 was the most versatile, reliable WAN Access Router we could offer.”

Jean-Luc La Paglia
Sales Director
Black Box France



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Quick Eagle offers an unique WAN access router that combines essential routing functionality with additional, typically one-box solution capabilities such as network monitoring, multilink technology, and CSU/DSU features, enabling enhanced speed, reliability, security and scalability. In particular, the router’s multilink capabilities are appealing to customers, whose highly sensitive and urgent voice and data communications require enhanced bandwidth management and reliability. Using multilink technology, it is possible to bond multiple T1/E1s into a single high-speed virtual link or enable load balancing for enhanced security.

According to Jean-Luc La Paglia, sales director at Black Box France: "The Quick Eagle 5840 Multiport Router was the most versatile, reliable WAN access router we could offer, and it is priced below competing products with similar functionality. Its overall ease of configuration, management and security is best on the market, and we are glad the SDIS90 Belfort has chosen this solution."

Black Box France provided SDIS90 Belfort with a set of Quick Eagle’s 5840 Multiport Access Routers. The solution integrates powerful, yet easy-to-manage network monitoring functions to help to diagnose and identify congestion problems before they become catastrophic, and leverages multilink capabilities to increase bandwidth and ensure enhanced reliability.

When Performance and Scalability Count

"In our line of work, everything we do is mission critical, and we are often faced with the possibility of real physical danger, for ourselves and for others," said Colonel Jean Demange, technical director of the Belfort Territory fire brigade. "We have been using this solution for the past four months, and are all very impressed with its performance. We rely on that performance, and also the speed and security of the solution, and in effect, stake our lives on it each day in the field. Needless to say, we are pleased with our choice of products."

The Quick Eagle 5840 Multiport Router’s integrated multilink, IP Routing, and IP Probe capabilities enabled the four sites to collaborate and share information at faster speeds and lower cost than any other alternative.