



resilient  
network systems

# CASE STUDY

# THE MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORPORATION

## BACKGROUND

The Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) is an independent U.S. foreign aid agency that delivers much needed aid to developing countries across the globe. Based in Washington D.C., MCC was created by the U.S. Congress in 2004. To date, MCC has approved over \$10 billion in programs worldwide, that support country-determined projects in areas such as, agriculture, transportation, and education. These programs are supported and executed in each country via MCC-established organizations, known as MCA entities.

MCC's primary means of coordination and collaboration with the more than 20 international MCA offices, is a powerful platform called MCA Collaborate. This solution was developed by MCC's technology partner, RSR, which is a Herndon, Virginia-based consulting firm.

MCA Collaborate is built on Google's G Suite platform and provides MCC and MCA employees with the ability to retrieve documents, coordinate calendars, and collaborate via email, chat or video. MCA Collaborate is vital to the success of the programs sponsored by this geographically dispersed organization.

## THE CHALLENGE

"MCC faced a challenge that is typical for many foreign affairs government agencies, how to

"...how to share sensitive and valuable data with organizations across many countries, while maintaining regulatory compliance..."

share sensitive and valuable data with organizations across many countries, while maintaining regulatory compliance for a US-based agency," explained Heather Flannery, VP Global Health & International Development at RSR. "MCC by its nature needs to interact with overseas organizations and individuals that can never be fully vetted, so we needed a solution that could verify identities, and provide us with superior controls as to who gets provisioned."

Initially MCC implemented a traditional multi-factor solution for G Suite to authenticate users as they accessed MCA Collaborate. As time went on however, it became clear that MCC's organizational sophistication and unique user base requirements demanded a more flexible and secure solution.

## THE SOLUTION

"We began reaching out to our contacts within the government technology community as soon as we realized we needed help," Heather Flannery, "Resilient Network Systems seemed like a natural fit because their contextual access control solution, Resilient Access™, could handle our most challenging authentication and access policy use cases and their management team had deep government experience."

Once the decision was made, the Resilient team gathered current and future requirements from MCC related to the security and compliance of the application.



“MCC needed a cloud solution integrated with Google’s G Suite applications but also adaptable enough to work with other platforms such as Salesforce,” said Alexandra Mankarios, Project Analyst at RSR, charged with IT Security policy.

“The combined solution achieved a FISMA certification and Resilient’s was a critical security partner for us during certification. Fundamentally we wanted a sophisticated solution that could give us the policy and security controls we needed as we looked to the future. ”

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The implementation of Resilient Access™ on top of Google Directory gave MCC greater visibility and automation of the entire lifecycle of MCA Collaborate from provisioning to de-provisioning and all access attempts in between. Administrators could also now change features like single sign-on and multi-factor authentication on the fly with a simple drag and drop interface. Users also noticed a more streamlined experience as they accessed MCA Collaborate, which resulted in a significant drop-off in the need for user support.

"The product is fantastic, it adapts to where our users are logging in from and makes managing custom policies like IP white-lists easy. Our security and compliance standards are higher, but our support effort has been significantly reduced. We are super happy with Resilient Access," said Ms. Mankarios.

## SUMMARY

A major reason for MCC’s success is its ability to quickly get aid programs up and running in developing countries. To accomplish this it needs to be able to collaborate and share information securely with both internal, and external users. The Resilient solution offers MCC the flexibility and power to address its unique access requirements while ensuring that it meets all its regulatory requirements as a U.S.-based aid agency.



## RESILIENT ACCESS™

### FEATURES

- User lifecycle management (provisioning, authentication, etc.)
- Drag and drop policy builder
- Password management
- Audit log viewer
- SSO for Google Apps
- Complete integration with Google Platform (Directory, SSO and Admin)

### BENEFITS

- Adaptive multi-factor authentication depending on risk profile
- Enhanced security for internal and external parties
- Improved user experience resulting in fewer support calls
- Streamlined ability to create powerful access policies
- Automated account provisioning

### TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Operating System	Ubuntu 12.04, 14.04, LTS Server Edition, CoreOS/Docker
Database	MySQL Aurora (Amazon RDS) 5.6
Protocols	TLS/SSL can be layered on top of connections HTTP, LDAP, MySQL, SMTP, SAML, CORS, Websocket
Deployment Options	AWS VPC, AWS Gov Cloud, Docker Containers, SaaS



### ABOUT RESILIENT NETWORK SYSTEMS

Resilient Access™ is a policy-driven contextual access control solution for securely sharing data and connecting organizations. Resilient Network Systems' policy workflow engine discovers, organizes and resolves the information or attributes required to provide the context to make smarter access decisions. Resilient's unique network-based architecture scales quickly to extend an organization's reach across its entire ecosystem. Resilient Network Systems has customers in the U.S. government, law enforcement and healthcare, and is a privately held, venture-backed company based in San Francisco.