

G-BAR LIMITED PARTNERSHIP

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DEEP INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE AND NETWORK TECHNOLOGY EXPERTISE PROVIDE GUIDANCE AND DIRECTION FOR MAINTAINING A RELIABLE NETWORK.

G-Bar's network grew in an ad-hoc fashion, with services and equipment added to meet immediate needs rather than based on a long-term strategy. Working with West Monroe Partners, the company reviewed its current network infrastructure and assessed its strengths and weaknesses. The result was a clear and strategic plan for minimizing its technology investment while maintaining a high level of client service.

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Since its inception in 1982, G-Bar has taken advantage of a dynamic industry through its command of technology and breadth of experience. G-Bar utilizes state of the art proprietary trading software systems designed for arbitrage, hedging and risk-control applications in both existing and new markets.

ASSESSING CURRENT NETWORK VIABILITY AND DETERMINING A STRATEGIC PATH.

Development of G-Bar's network—the backbone of the company's trading activity—occurred on an as needed basis. The company needed a strategic plan that would allow it to minimize its technology investment while continuing to provide a high level of service to clients.

G-Bar sought a partner with deep experience in the trading industry to review its current network infrastructure, assess its strengths and weaknesses, and suggest a strategic path for developing its network for the future. Specifically, the company wanted to understand how its network performs compared to peers in the industry. Additionally, because its equipment was up for replacement, G-Bar wanted to ensure it was investing in the right technology.

For this "second set of eyes," G-Bar turned to West Monroe Partners. West Monroe Partners offered a proven Network Assessment and Healthcheck methodology, a team of network engineers with deep experience in the capital markets and trading environments, as well as expertise in highly available networks, networking equipment, and disaster recovery.

IN-DEPTH INFORMATION GATHERING.

West Monroe Partners used its Network Assessment and Healthcheck methodology to gather information, understand G-Bar's environment, and provide recommendations. To start, the project team facilitated several "white boarding" sessions to gather as much information as possible about G-Bar's network design. Using information gathered from these sessions, the project team created detailed design documents. Then, the team conducted interviews with key IT staff to address gaps not covered during the initial design sessions.

West Monroe Partners also performed a detailed review of all equipment configurations. Network engineers:

- ◆ Looked for consistency among the configurations
- ◆ Compared the configurations to best practices
- ◆ Reviewed security standards
- ◆ Validated findings from the discovery sessions

The project team then documented its detailed findings and recommendations. This written assessment addressed issues ranging from executive-level matters to technical specifications. As it created the document, the team sought the input and suggestions of G-Bar staff to ensure the document met the company's needs and concerns.

By working with West Monroe Partners to review its current infrastructure technology and processes, G-Bar was able to validate its current hardware and platforms and create a strategic growth plan—one that will enable the company to continue providing a stable and reliable network for its applications.

West Monroe Partners is an international, full-service business and technology consulting firm focused on guiding organizations through projects that fundamentally transform their business. With the experience to create the most ambitious visions as well as the skills to implement the smallest details of our clients' most critical projects, West Monroe Partners is a proven provider of growth and efficiency to large enterprises, as well as more nimble middle-market organizations. Our more than 300 consulting professionals drive better business results by harnessing our collective experience across a range of industries, serving clients out of offices across the United States and Canada.