

## CASE STUDY: AT&T GLOBAL NETWORKS EXTRANET



THE PROJECT: In 1999, AT&T announced a 5 Billion Dollar acquisition of the IBM Global Network. Initially, ITCN was only contracted to provide the database architecture and front end processing for the Global Network Services informational web site to announce this acquisition. But when ITCN delivered effectively and on time under immense pressure from world-wide scrutiny, we were contracted to return and deliver the entire AT&T and IBM Integration Extranet System, which served over the next several years as the transition portal for AT&T and IBM personnel.

**THE CHALLENGE:** AT&T needed a secure method to integrate systems and information with the new IBM staff assigned to the project.

Document collaboration, time scheduling and personnel information had to be shared in a manner secure enough to protect this very sensitive information, yet flexible enough to allow these two large corporations to work effectively.

**THE SOLUTION:** A new extranet site was created utilizing a dynamic data-driven architecture model to provide a secure collaborative communications channel based on an interactive organization chart interface for both AT&T and IBM personnel working on the project. ITCN programmed a data-aware site on the AT&T Intranet and then brought IBM users through a secure tunnel in the firewall to safely collaborate with AT&T staff.

**THE TECHNOLOGY:** The Extranet site was served within AT&T on a Microsoft NT IIS 4 Server utilizing Active Server Pages connecting to a Microsoft SQL 6.5 Database and a Lotus Domino 5.0 Server. The secure tunnel was created utilizing SSL on a specialized port passed through the AT&T firewall.

**THE CUSTOMER:** "ITCN delivered robust and innovative applications under intense deadline pressures. The AT&T Global Network Services portal that ITCN developed to enable secure collaboration between transition teams at AT&T and IBM played a critical role in the success of AT&T's \$5B acquisition of the IBM Global Network. Hundreds of users from the IBM and AT&T transition teams relied on the portal to assist them in their task of integrating the IBM assets into AT&T. The portal allowed us to overcome traditional limitations to communications within and between companies, and bridged the chasm of incompatible systems that complicated our ability to effectively collaborate on a large scale. ITCN came through for us."

George Karayannis
 Advanced Services Strategy Director
 AT&T Solutions Group Strategy & Alliances