

HighStream Fiber Scales Business with netElastic CGNAT to Meet Demand

HighStream Fiber is an internet service provider on the Alabama Gulf Coast dedicated to bringing high-speed fiber to residential and multi-dwelling (MDU) customers. By delivering innovative fiber broadband with outstanding customer service in their local communities, HighStream has been steadily growing since its inception. This growth led to a need for a CGNAT solution to help preserve their IPv4 addresses.

Choosing a CGNAT Solution

When HighStream Fiber began researching CGNAT vendors, they started by looking at the usual large router manufacturers. "My first thought was Cisco," said President of HighStream Fiber Russ Reynolds. "But when I looked at vendors like Cisco and Juniper, the lowest cost router was around \$32,000. I also needed a backup, which brought my base cost to approximately \$64,000 - and that's without licensing. Although they make very good products, I couldn't justify Cisco and Juniper's equipment and licensing costs."

A local broadband consultant recommended netElastic CGNAT routers, a software-based CGNAT that runs on x86 servers. Russ Reynolds stated "With netElastic, we could put their CGNAT on a Dell server for one-fourth of the cost. In fact, I could have two netElastic CGNAT routers - one for production and one for backup, and still be under the Cisco cost. And netElastic supports 40,000 IPv4 customers."

Russ continued, "As a new ISP, many folks in the industry think starting and maintaining an ISP requires high-end equipment, certified staff, and buckets of money. In reality, it doesn't! Solutions such as netElastic vRouter provide a simple solution to get up and running as an ISP with a few initial configurations, and that's it."

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"I also liked that netElastic CGNAT is a cutting-edge solution," said Reynolds, referring to the trend of disaggregated networking solutions. "It's not your regular proprietary router in a box with Cisco or Juniper. We're using virtual router software with Dell servers. Why not be on the cutting edge with much lower costs."

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SCALING WITH CGNAT

When HighStream Fiber started working with netElastic, they found it easy to implement CGNAT. "netElastic sent us a server that was pre-configured with CGNAT; all we had to do was put it into the rack and turn it up," said HighStream's Reynolds. "netElastic engineers were always available to help spin this up, and the technical support was great."

Since implementing netElastic CGNAT, HighStream has saved both time and money. "We've had no issues since we implemented CGNAT. This is a straightforward solution that works well. It's a plug-and-play solution. And it's very, very cost-effective." In addition to the significant capital and operational cost savings, HighStream has also saved thousands of dollars by not having to purchase additional IPv4 addresses.

As HighStream continues to sign up new subscribers, having a scalable and future-proof network is essential. And netElastic fits the bill. According to Russ, "Virtual routing is the next wave of routing. The virtual router enables us to move and adapt very quickly. netElastic's CGNAT router will enable us to meet the demand for fiber broadband and scale our infrastructure for growth."



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