Dun & Bradstreet fuels data-driven services using MFT

Fostering innovation with fast, secure, and centrally governed data-sharing

INDUSTRY

Business Information Services

GEOGRAPHY

North America

CHALLENGES

Dun & Bradstreet's business runs on data — and the company shares millions of records with thousands of internal and external stakeholders each month. As file transfer volumes exploded, how could the company maintain strict governance and security controls while ensuring fast and easy access to data?

SOLUTION

- Axway Managed File Transfer
  - Axway SecureTransport
  - Axway Transfer CFT

RESULTS

- Enables central control over all data flows
- Strengthens data governance
- Delivers 24/7 availability
- Supports volumes of 40 TB/month
- Offers cost-effective scalability

Dun & Bradstreet delivers insights that help enterprises to compete, grow and thrive. Through the Dun & Bradstreet Data Cloud, the company empowers businesses to steer well-informed decisions that build revenues, reduce risk, control costs, and support digital transformation.

These insights come from Dun & Bradstreet's hundreds of millions of records on companies around the world. Mastered to a unique, nine-digit company identifier — known as a D&B D-U-N-S Number — these records include registered names, addresses, credit histories, and more.

Identifying governance challenges

To keep its massive data sets up to date and share information with internal and external partners securely, Dun & Bradstreet makes extensive use of file transfers. With data originating and terminating in thousands of different locations inside the corporate firewall and beyond, the company targeted a way to improve the visibility, control, and cost-effectiveness of its approach to data-sharing.

Jim Martone, VP Engineering at Dun & Bradstreet, elaborates: "File transfers are becoming an increasingly important way for us to exchange data. Many of our systems for data collection and enrichment — as well as our product-delivery channels — move large volumes of data in bulk. As business demand grew, we stood up dedicated FTP servers to handle the traffic."

Dun & Bradstreet recognized that managing multiple separate FTP servers would present significant challenges in the long term. As well as scaling inefficiently, the siloed approach made it difficult to determine that file transfers were being managed in line with its stringent data governance policies.

D&B needed a managed file transfer (MFT) solution that delivers central visibility of transfers across the enterprise. At the same time, Dun & Bradstreet was keen to strengthen its governance for other data flows. For example, by providing more secure and user-friendly alternatives to sending confidential information via email, network file shares, or cloud-based storage solutions. Furthermore, standardizing on a single-vendor solution for person-to-person, person-to-system, and system-to-system transfers presented a valuable opportunity to contain costs.

Embracing an end-to-end solution

To enable its new, integrated approach to MFT, Dun & Bradstreet selected Axway Managed File Transfer, including Axway SecureTransport (a secure, extensible MFT gateway), and Axway Transfer CFT (a multi-platform file transfer controller). The end-to-end solution is managed from a single point of control using Managed File Transfer

"Managed File Transfer offers Dun & Bradstreet all the capabilities we need to support our highly distributed file-sharing architecture," Martone continues. "We can deploy on the mainframe, on-premises, and in hybrid and multicloud environments, while still maintaining all-important control over data moving across the business."

Keeping data moving fast and under control

Today, D&B uses Managed File Transfer to transfer 40 TB of data reliably each month. With high availability built in, the Axway MFT ensures all business users can rapidly access the information they need to perform their roles effectively.

"Whether we're moving a few dozen records or transferring 100 million of them, we need to know we can trust our MFT systems to be reliable and secure. SecureTransport gives us that peace of mind," adds Martone.

Building on its successes with Managed File Transfer, Dun & Bradstreet is planning for the future. The company intends to extend its file distribution network with new deployments across a mixture of on-premises and cloud data centers globally — all centrally managed and orchestrated with Managed File Transfer.

"It would be impossible to provide our services and meet our regulatory obligations without a solution like Axway Managed File Transfer," concludes Martone. "By continuing our work with Axway, we're excited to start using API integrations with Axway Transfer CFT, Axway Secure Transport, and our own custom-developed systems to deliver innovative data sharing use-cases for the business."

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Using role-based permissions in SecureTransport, Dun & Bradstreet is enabling self-service capabilities for the business — freeing IT personnel to focus on innovation, and contributing to greater operational efficiency.

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