

**Industry**

International Relief and  
Development

**Locations**

Over 90 countries, with  
ten global offices

**Founded**

1942

**Cool Fact**

Each year Oxfam reaches tens of  
millions of people directly

**Website**

[www.oxfamamerica.com](http://www.oxfamamerica.com)

**Ecessa Product**

PowerLink™

January 2017

## Oxfam America

*Enjoying Higher Performance Across Applications*

### The Company

Oxfam America (Oxfam) is an affiliate of Oxfam International, an international relief and development organization that creates lasting solutions to address poverty, hunger and injustice. They have ten offices globally, including four in the United States, and six located within South America, Africa and Cambodia. Oxfam's Boston office has approximately 150 of their 500 employees worldwide, and the facility takes on the majority of the organization's network needs.

### The Challenge

Oxfam's Boston office had two bonded T1 connections that theoretically provided 3Mbps of up and down speeds. However, the actual performance was far less due to latency and congestion.

The nature of the organization's work involves utilizing web-based applications to deliver on-demand services (SaaS). Additionally, Oxfam America does a lot of video conferencing and uses a variety of collaboration tools.

Unfortunately, their WAN was unable to handle all the traffic and heavy multi-media applications, and its performance became intolerable.

"The applications we use for our daily business were taxing the network to the point where users could not be fully productive," said Mark Aherrera, IT Director, Oxfam America.

### The Solution

To remedy this, Oxfam America deployed two PowerLink™ WAN controllers in a high-availability configuration in their main office in Boston, as well as a second WAN connection using a cable circuit that provided 10Mbps upload and 50Mbps download speeds.

"Our IT help desk now spends less time resolving problems, we don't have to spend time contracting service providers and vendors, and we don't need to replicate problems and rule out the router and other devices," said Aherrera.



## The Results

Oxfam America got more bandwidth at less cost. The bonded T1s cost \$2,000 per month, while the cost for the new cable circuit is only \$300 per month and provides greater bandwidth.

“Optimizing our WAN was a key priority for our organization. User productivity has dramatically improved, and the IT department is no longer getting complaints because users can’t upload their video files and send and receive email,” said Aherrera.

The load balancing and link failover provided by the Ecessa solution, made the new broadband connection perform like a private link with a service level agreement. PowerLink takes care of this reliability factor by automatically load balancing traffic between the bonded T1s and the cable circuit, providing link failover should either network connection have an outage.

With increased bandwidth and improved management, Oxfam America now enjoys high performance across their applications at a lower costs to the organization.

---

**“Optimizing our WAN was a key priority for our organization. User productivity has dramatically improved, and the IT department is no longer getting complaints because users can’t upload their video files and send and receive email.”**

*Mark Aherrera,  
IT Director  
Oxfam America*

---