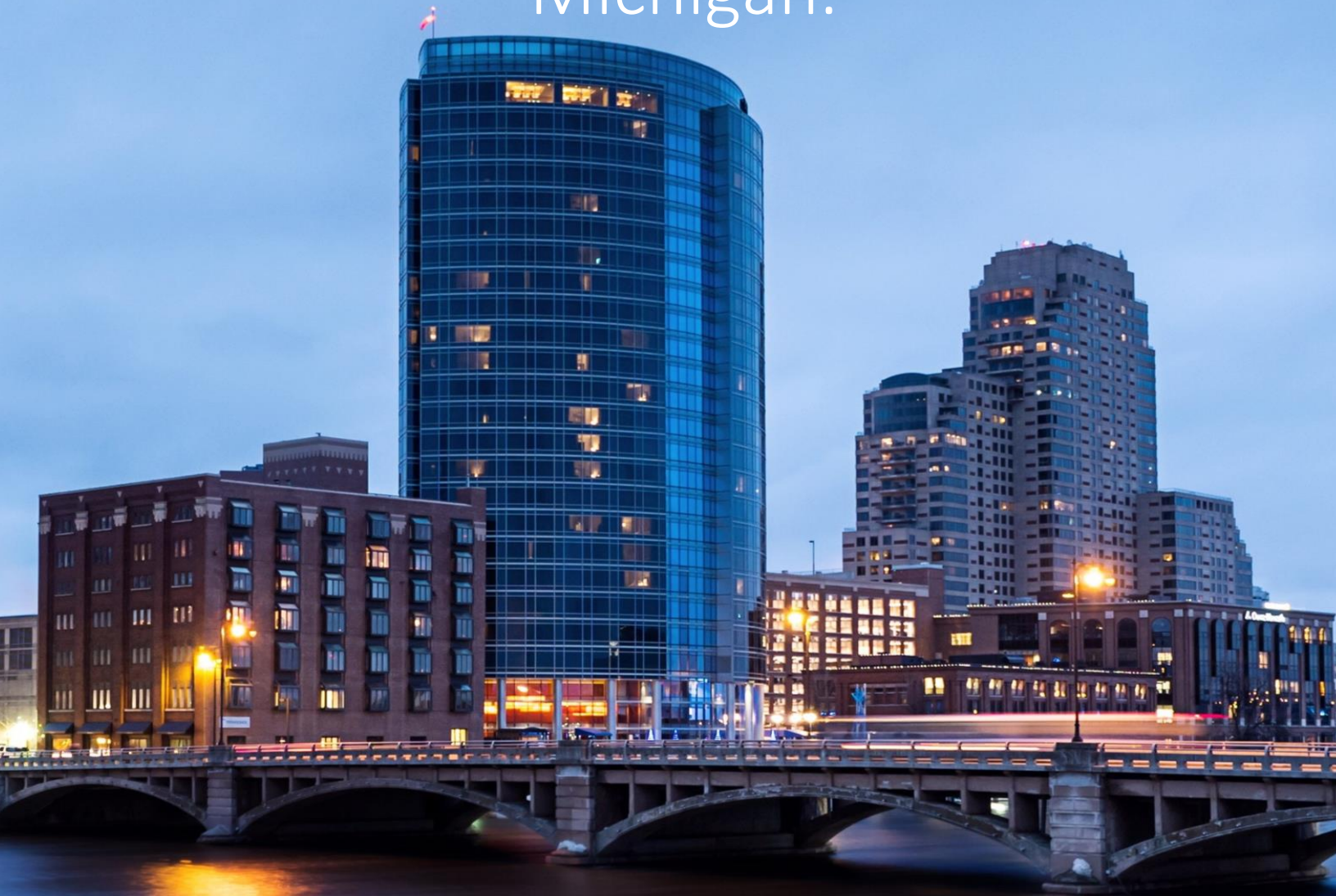


Bringing Cloud Business Back to Michigan.



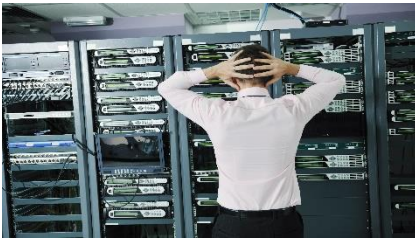
“The transition of our environment to Element Four’s couldn’t have gone any better. The process from start to finish was very straight forward and detailed. Every question we had was answered, and this left us very confident leading up to the migration.”

-Jay Manske
Network Engineer, Dominion Systems



Company:

Dominion Systems is a software as a service (SaaS) company based in Grand Rapids, MI. Their software enables businesses to do their payroll, time and attendance, and HR processes on one easy-to-use platform.



Challenge:

Dominion Systems had been relying on an out of state service provider to help them maintain their environment-- but were unhappy with the quality of support they were receiving.



Solution:

Element Four outlined a detailed plan to migrate Dominion's entire virtual environment from their data center in Pennsylvania to Element Four's cloud environment located in Switch's Pyramid Campus.

The Business

Dominion Systems is a software as a service (SaaS) company based in Grand Rapids, MI. Their software enables businesses to do their payroll, time and attendance, and HR processes on one easy-to-use platform.

Dominion's goal is to provide the industry's best human resource management software and customer service to their clients. Their cloud-based software allows their clients to process payroll from anywhere with an internet connection.

Technology is vital to Dominion's day to day operations—their cloud environment is at the centerpiece of their business model. Dominion recognizes that in order for their business to operate successfully, their cloud environment needs to be built for 100% uptime.

The Challenge

Prior to partnering with Element Four, Dominion Systems had been hosting their cloud environment at a data center in Pennsylvania. They relied on an out of state service provider to help them maintain their environment-- but were unhappy with the quality of support they were receiving.

"We had been working with another company prior to Element Four, and their answer always seemed to be to add resources and throw money at the problem." said Dominion's Network Engineer, Jay Manske.

As Dominion's client base grew, so did their need for a more advanced and efficient cloud platform. Dominion noticed that some of their critical systems were beginning to lag and use more resources than before. They understood that their cloud environment needed an upgrade to keep up with their growing client base.

Dominion's former service provider was unable to provide them with a cost effective and reliable plan to scale their environment, which lead Dominion to seek out another IT service provider.

Element Four has over ten years of experience assisting clients with Colocation Services. Their professional services team has worked on hundreds of data center deployments and migrations throughout the continental US, including numerous installations at both Switch Grand Rapids and Switch Las Vegas.

When Dominion sat down with the Element Four team, they were impressed with Element Four's knowledge of virtual environments.

"Element Four laid out a very efficient setup of our environment that used far less resources than we were previously using. Their engineers were very knowledgeable in virtual environments, and especially with DR and hypervisor backups--which we could never get working right with our previous company." Manske said.

Element Four's location also factored into Dominion's decision.

"We liked that Element Four was a local company in Grand Rapids, and we were able to meet face to face and build a better relationship. The fact that they partnered with Switch as their data center was another great benefit to making the move." Manske said.



Results:

Dominion's entire virtual environment is managed in Element Four's private cloud in the Switch Pyramid and replicated to Switch's facility in Las Vegas. Their systems are running more efficiently and only using **half** the resources that they were previously using.



Contact:

info@element-4.com

616.275.5000

3230 Broadmoor SE, Suite C.
Kentwood, MI 49512

www.element-4.com

Element Four's Solution

Element Four outlined a detailed plan to migrate Dominion's entire virtual environment from their data center in Pennsylvania to Element Four's cloud environment located in Switch's Pyramid Campus, a Tier 5 Platinum data center located in Kentwood, MI.

Element Four's cloud infrastructure within Switch resides on a VMware cluster powered by Cisco UCS server blades which allow for exceptional management, performance and scalability. The network backbone is built on redundant 10G Cisco Nexus switches. Primary storage is setup to accommodate high availability to meet performance requirements delivered by a Kaminario K2 all flash SAN.

"The transition of our environment to Element Four's couldn't have gone any better. The process from start to finish was very straight forward and detailed. Every question we had was answered, and this left us very confident leading up to the migration." Manske said.

Element Four leveraged Veeam replication to facilitate the data migration and was able to complete Dominion's virtual server migration with almost zero downtime. In addition, the migration was done after business hours to ensure that Dominion's employees and customers would not experience disruption in their services.

"The communication was great throughout and continued even after the migration was complete and as we fine-tuned the environment. The engineers were able to address any issues we encountered quickly, and still make us feel we are a priority to this day." Manske said.

The Results

Now Dominion's entire virtual environment is managed in Element Four's private cloud in the Switch Pyramid and replicated to Switch's facility in Las Vegas. According to Manske, Dominion's systems are running more efficiently and only using **half** the resources that they were previously using in the same environment.

In addition, they were able to establish working replication that could failover and failback with working data preservation on both ends—something that they had not been able to do previously.

"We now have a reliable backup and DR solution in place which has always been a challenge for us due to our large databases that we manage. Overall, we are very satisfied!" Manske concluded.

Key technologies leveraged:

- Veeam Replication
- Cisco UCS
- Kaminario

Key services offered:

- Colocation at Switch Tier 5 Platinum data centers
- Enterprise Consulting by Element Four
- VPS and Disaster Recovery as a Service