

GAF takes Tanium to the cloud — and beyond

**Industry**

Manufacturing (roofing and waterproofing)

Size

3700 employees

Headquarters

New Jersey, USA

Endpoints Under Management

5100

Revenue

Over £3 billion

Results

- **97% Compliance**
And the remaining endpoints are quarantined until they're compliant, keeping operations safe and sound.
- **From 2 Hours to Just 20 Minutes**
Reduction in time needed to image an endpoint with Tanium.

Monitor endpoint operations within a cloud-first strategy

Like an army fighting a war on two separate fronts, the IT team at roofing and waterproofing manufacturer GAF delivered a powerful on-premises solution for vulnerability monitoring, only to find it then had to move the entire solution to the cloud.

The project began in 2017, when GAF's senior IT leaders became concerned about their endpoint vulnerabilities and exposures to malware and other types of cyberattacks. That concern ultimately led the team to license and install Tanium's asset and operations suites, then offered as on-premises solutions.

The Tanium implementation was so successful, it became the foundation of GAF's operational reporting. For example, Tanium now also provides GAF a weekly security score card to prove all vulnerabilities have been removed.

But then the team was told they would need to move the entire Tanium suite to the cloud as part of GAF's company wide shift. As part of the move, GAF was entirely shutting down its New Jersey data center. Also, some 5,100 endpoints in North America, including desktops and laptops used by developers and engineers, would be moved to Google Workspace. That's a cloud-based suite of collaboration tools, including email, calendar, meetings, chat and shared storage.

The move was a big one. But even more challenging, the IT team was told they'd have to do the work quickly. Tanium was one of only a handful of workloads still running in the soon-to-be-closed data center.

“From a compliance point of view, Tanium is a heavy hitter.”

Jim Pantopicos,
Director, Workplace Technologies,
GAF

“Moving Tanium from on-prem to cloud was simple. It was a 4-week cycle, and we pretty much got it done.”

Jim Pantopicos,
Director, Workplace Technologies,
GAF

The move to Tanium Cloud

For help, GAF reached out to its Tanium account managers. They came back with good news: The cloud migration was not only a straightforward job, but one that could be completed in only about four weeks.

Tanium Cloud offers the full functionality of the Tanium platform delivered as a fully managed, cloud-based service. One big advantage for GAF: Tanium Cloud requires zero customer infrastructure.

Moving to the cloud also means GAF can use Tanium without having to install software and maintain virtual or physical servers. The Tanium core platform and solutions are automatically configured and maintained. That frees up GAF to focus on using Tanium to manage endpoints.

Thanks to the power of the cloud, GAF was also able to maintain endpoint management connections as employees shifted to working from home and then, more recently, back to the office.

“There were no issues,” says Jim Pantopicos, GAF’s director of workplace technologies. “We never skipped a beat.”

Faster, more accurate reporting

One result of implementing Tanium Cloud for GAF is that now 97% of its endpoints are compliant with Google’s Chrome browser emergency update to address a zero-day vulnerability. The remaining machines get quarantined until they too are compliant.

Another benefit is endpoint imaging. Prior to using Tanium, GAF was doing bare-metal imaging essentially by hand, even though most of the apps are now web-based. That could take as long as two hours per build. Now, using Tanium, that’s down to just 15 to 20 minutes each. “Think about the time we’ll save when we have to image 20, 30, 40 machines at a clip,” Pantopicos says. “That should deliver a huge ROI.”

“Tanium has also helped GAF by reporting on, and remediating, vulnerabilities discovered in March on the Chrome and Edge browsers. This was identified as a zero-day vulnerability that has active exploit code in the wild. This vulnerability can be checked, reported and remediated with a collection of tools that includes Tanium Comply. “Without Tanium, we would have had no ability to address these vulnerabilities,” Pantopicos says.

Looking ahead, GAF intends to help parent company Standard Industries standardize on Tanium worldwide. Standard Industries employs some 20,000 people in over 80 countries, so the job will be a big one. “That way,” Pantopicos explains, “we’ll be able to go global with a single image.”



Tanium offers an endpoint management and security platform built for the world’s most demanding IT environments. Many of the world’s largest and most sophisticated organizations — including nearly half of the Fortune 100, top retailers and financial institutions, and multiple branches of the U.S. Armed Forces — rely on Tanium to make confident decisions, operate efficiently, and remain resilient against disruption.

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