



collaborate

CASE STUDY

Cool, Calm & Collected Deployment



IR Testing Solutions ensures bulletproof confidence

BACKGROUND

Southern Company is one of the largest energy providers in the United States. Based in Atlanta, Ga., Southern Company owns electric utilities in four states, natural gas distribution utilities in seven states. Southern Company serves over 9 million customers through its subsidiaries. Operations include nearly 200,000 miles of electric transmission and distribution lines and more than 80,000 miles of natural gas pipeline.

CHALLENGES

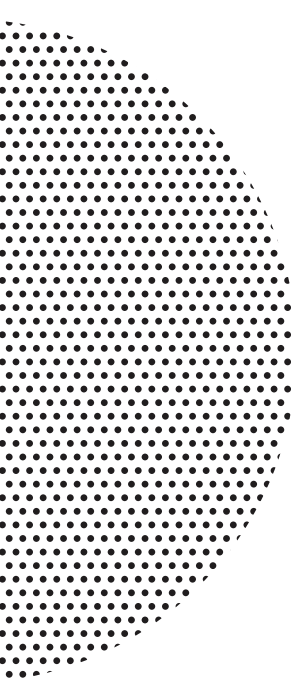
Southern Company's clients had agreed to energy consumption ramp downs during peak demand periods in exchange for lower energy rates. When demand spiked, Southern Company needed to contact their customers and receive acknowledgment before they could start the ramp down process. Previously they had received poor feedback from their customers around latency and garbled messages. There were issues with the application of the platform too.

Southern Company upgraded the platform and made many changes but they needed to be certain the upgraded system solved all the problems and that would not reoccur in the future. They needed to test the system comprehensively before deploying.

"We needed to test the changes made and verify that the upgrade actually solved the problem. We needed to be absolutely certain when we went back to the business that our problems had been solved."

Separately, Southern Company was required to ensure their inbound contact center systems were operating correctly so that when peak traffic hit during storm season the system would not fail. They had to know they had sufficient capacity.





"IR were very detailed and responsive. They were always available and extremely flexible."

Karen Cassidy
Senior Analyst
Southern Company

SOLUTION & BENEFITS

Southern Company used IR Testing Solutions to validate their outbound calling process, and performed StressTests against their inbound contact center.

IR met Southern Company's criteria for evaluation by confirming:

- All calls were successfully placed
- Call quality of 90% or above
- No delay on the IVR before hearing a recording
- Responses received correctly

IR Collaborate verified Southern Company's outbound calling procedure and return confirmation calls from customers were working as required. This complex task of ensuring customers' Avaya dialer system was interpreting the original calls accurately and taking the appropriate follow up action ensured the team had absolute confidence in their deployment. Southern Company was able to hand over full control to their business unit after the original setup was operating, providing added flexibility to their customers.

Southern Company was replacing an integration component and needed to ensure the new application could handle call volume anticipated during peak season: storm season. IR's StressTest used for Southern Company's IVR system reached 100% success.

When initial testing began issues arose that raised an alarm for concern. When changes were made to rectify the issues, they retested to validate everything was working properly before deployment.

Difficulty sometimes arose when users replied saying they didn't get a prompt on a call. Southern Company could listen back to call recordings and validate the call was delivered as intended. This increased their confidence in outbound calling.

"The biggest thing was just the confidence we got from performing these tests. It wasn't as stressful for us to roll out the changes. We can't perform the tests internally, so it was very helpful. It's a very big deal."



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