Case Study

A Fast Data Center Rebuild for an International Aerospace Corporation Post-Divestiture

The client

The client is an international aerospace corporation offering defense services, logistics, engineering, systems integration, modernization, and other services to government and commercial partners. It maintains operational sites on every continent except Antarctica, and is headquartered in the eastern U.S.

The challenge: Quickly transition off of parent company's infrastructure

A recent divestiture had left the client with a growing list of needs. First, the client faced a failure of their network services. Still entangled in the parent company's IT, they were tied to WAN circuits that couldn't be used simultaneously, had to deal with multiple carriers and billings, and had 40 locations to manage. Although the client retained short-term access to the parent company's MPLS network, they needed their own solution.

The client also had compute, security, data protection, and storage challenges to address, as well as an Active Directory® migration to execute. The parent company was going to retain ownership of the data center assets that the client had relied on, forcing the client to embark on a near-greenfield data center build.

All work had to be completed on an aggressive timeline of 10 months in order to maintain business continuity and eliminate dependency on the parent company. Scalability was crucial, as was the need for new investments to be in line with the client's hybrid cloud strategy.

Industry:
Aerospace

CDCT provided:
- Readiness assessment
- Solution design and PoC
- Pilot testing, deployment, and validation
- Transition to new infrastructure

CDCT services:
- Consulting Services
- Migration Services
- SD-WAN design and implementation
- Network access control design and implementation
- Next-gen firewall design and implementation
- Cloud strategy

The solution: Build out and transition to new data center and remote sites

Insight's Supply Chain Optimization team was already working with the client on a smaller contract when they engaged the Cloud + Data Center Transformation (CDCT) team to support a smaller compute project. The scope soon expanded.

CDCT helped the client navigate their near-greenfield implementation of primary and secondary data centers, core infrastructure, and web-based security assets. We began with a detailed assessment, followed by the design of new architecture, a Proof of Concept (PoC), and testing and implementation. To help the client transition at a pace that best suited their business, our consultants created configuration standards and templating for subsequent network stand-ups the client could perform over time.

The client was able to stand up its primary data center and two remote locations within a week of each other. With zero-touch provisioning, the other 40 sites were then brought onto the network within the timeline. The project impacted more than 4,200 endpoints (workstations, Internet of Things (IoT) sensors, and headless devices), enabled application-aware routing, and gave the client the trustworthy consultation and partnership they needed to manage such a drastic transition.

The client opted for an SD-WAN architecture on-premises, which would give them the granular control and flexibility they required. CDCT deployed a Cisco® Viptela® SD-WAN solution in addition to Cisco Identity Services Engine, Cisco AnyConnect® secure mobility client, umbrella secure roaming, web security appliance, and advanced malware protection to provide secure connectivity between remote locations and endpoints.

Solution components:

- 10 Cisco UCS® Blade Servers
- Cisco leaf-and-spine, 10/40GB network topology
- Pure Storage® FlashArray™//X20 with 180TB usable
- Cohesity® file solution (20TB)
- Cisco MDS storage fabric

We assisted with all phases of the migration. This included data protection for 6PB with Cohesity backup on-site for 30 days and cloud storage backup retention for 90 days, as well as IP Address Management (IPAM) and DNS implementation and migration with Infoblox. We are continuing to support the client with ongoing infrastructure services and modernization initiatives.

The benefits: A high-performance, scalable, and fully independent infrastructure

Divestitures and other M&A activity can throw any company into a tailspin. Thankfully for the client, they found an expert partner in Insight that could support them throughout a difficult and expedited transition.

Going forward, the client has a modern data center with advanced capabilities. Their SD-WAN solution is delivering better reliability, visibility, and scale to support additional sites and their growing use of cloud services. CDCT helped them implement their first data protection platform, providing them unprecedented resilience and business continuity. We are their trusted resource as they embark on new cloud and Software as a Service (SaaS) initiatives to further accelerate their digital transformation.

Benefits:

- Rapid extraction from parent company data center
- Increased scale and agility
- Modernization to cloud and SaaS

Complete refresh
of IT infrastructures

Better visibility and control of
4,200+ endpoints

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