

How Cisco IT Uses AON to Simplify Application Development and Maintenance

Cisco AON accelerates application development and reduces costs.

BUSINESS BENEFITS

- Reduced development resources
- Avoided \$300,000 in licensing costs
- Reduced hardware and memory requirements
- Accelerated application delivery
- Enhanced security
- Enabled global updates to shared application functions

“By reducing development cycles and hardware and memory costs, AON is helping Cisco update its applications faster, for greater business effectiveness.”

– Patrick Andersson, Cisco IT manager

Historically, if Cisco® developers wanted to include an application function such as digital signature verification, they had to replicate their efforts ten times: for each environment, server technology, and language in use at Cisco.

This delayed application introduction, increased costs, and increased the risk of improperly implementing security functions. Application development and enhancement currently consume the efforts of 900 full-time engineers.

Cisco wanted to move common application functions to the network, where they could be implemented once and then called by every application that used them. Simplifying the architecture would also significantly reduce the costs of development, maintenance, and licensing.

Cisco achieved its goal with the Cisco Application-Oriented Networking (AON) module for Cisco routers and switches. The AON module currently provides about a dozen common functions for security, reliability, management, and targeted service—with more to come. To make an application call a prewritten AON function, the developer simply inserts a line of code in the application.

With three AON-based applications in production to date, Cisco is achieving measurable ROI. Factors include reduced development costs, application costs, and server memory and storage costs as well as avoidance of licensing costs and IT personnel increases. The company saved \$300,000 by eliminating licensing costs for Web Services management software.

Application introduction is faster. An AON-based Human Resources (HR) application, which gives a Cisco vendor direct access to the Cisco HR database, was developed in half the time expected: 120 hours instead of 240 hours.

AON provided the ability to globally change or update application functions or policies. AON maintains its functions in a central library, so an update to the function in the library immediately applies to potentially hundreds of applications that perform the function. Without AON, in contrast, developers would have to rewrite the code one application at a time, increasing time and expense.

Cisco now avoids \$300,000 in annual costs for licensing and maintenance for Web Services management.

Case Study: http://www.cisco.com/web/about/ciscoitnetwork/case_studies.html

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To read the entire case study or for additional Cisco IT case studies on a variety of business solutions, visit Cisco on Cisco: Inside Cisco IT www.cisco.com/go/ciscoit

NOTE

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