

How Cisco IT Deployed Content Networking to Improve Application Performance and Security

Cisco ACNS deployment lowers costs and improves application performance and network security.

BUSINESS BENEFITS

- Reduced costs for support, storage, servers, and content replication
- Reduced infrastructure management burden
- Enhanced software distribution
- HTTP worm and virus filtering
- Application acceleration for greater productivity

“Cisco ACNS is the Swiss Army knife for IT, providing a collection of tools that span networking, security, data centers, hosting, and the desktop.”

– Dan Stolt, Cisco IT ACNS Global Program Manager

Cisco Systems® regularly uses its network to distribute a variety of content—including live streaming video and video on demand (VoD), desktop security and antivirus updates, software packages, and configuration policies—to its more than 250 offices worldwide.

But until recently, those functions were provided by separate systems. For example, Cisco® previously relied on a dedicated VoD system to deliver video content for product information, training, and executive presentation files, and used a separate system to distribute desktop software updates.

By 2003, Cisco had developed a compelling business case for building a single content networking solution that combined the four previously disparate functions. The challenge was in consolidating

the complex medley of business and technical needs.

After careful review and testing, Cisco IT selected the Cisco Application and Content Networking System (ACNS) Software. Cisco ACNS Software resides on content engines—multifunctional ready-to-use appliances that eliminate the administrative burden and capital costs of deploying dedicated, distributed file and application servers.

Cisco IT designed its Cisco ACNS solution with a three-tiered architecture. Content is pushed from a central server to dedicated root content engines, where it is replicated for 13 Tier-2 hub sites. High-priority content, such as network security updates, is pushed to more than 230 Tier-3 content engines deployed at remote sales and engineering sites.

The company gained immediate cost savings. Decommissioning the VoD servers eliminated the US\$61,300 spent annually on outside support contracts. Cisco IT also eliminated more than 30 terabytes of storage space dedicated to VoD, thus reducing Cisco IT storage costs by about \$3 million.

Cisco saved more than \$3 million in reduced storage alone.

And by eliminating the need to replace 140 aging servers over two years, Cisco realized a one-time cost savings of approximately \$1.4 million. Cisco also enjoys continued savings from reduced management costs, virus and worm remediation, and delayed bandwidth upgrades. Most importantly, Cisco ACNS Software allows the company to keep all its offices up to date with the most current software, network security, and company information.

Case Study: http://www.cisco.com/global/EMEA/ciscoitwork/pdf/Cisco_IT_Case_Study_ACNS.pdf

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

This publication describes how Cisco has benefited from the deployment of its own products. Many factors may have contributed to the results and benefits described; Cisco does not guarantee comparable results elsewhere.

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