

How Cisco IT in Europe Migrated to MPLS VPN WAN

MPLS VPN WAN quadruples available bandwidth, increases agility during office moves, and lowers costs.

BUSINESS BENEFITS

- Greater scalability
- Streamlined moves
- Greater flexibility in connecting partner sites
- Cost savings
- Increased security and availability
- No need for onsite personnel

“MPLS provides fast any-to-any connectivity because traffic can reach its destination over the optimal path.”

– **Stef de Borchgrave, Cisco worldwide operations manager**

As operations in Europe grew, the limitations of Cisco’s network became apparent. Quality was not adequate for voice over IP, business continuity was disrupted each time a change was made to the network, and Cisco was planning a change that would affect many wide area network circuits.

Cisco IT identified Multiprotocol Label Switching Virtual Private Network (MPLS VPN) as the best option for the network upgrade. MPLS VPN provided the framework for optimal peer-to-peer applications such as IP voice and video, and also made office moves easier.

In the MPLS VPN model, each site needs only one connection to the VPN, which can expand to support hundreds or thousands of sites. This gives Cisco greater flexibility when moving sites, or connecting to

new sites and partner extranets. Additionally, the new model supports multicasting and quality of service. This permits live streaming video for corporate meetings over IP/TV, and international VoIP calling, an important benefit with the cost for international voice traffic in Europe three to four times higher than in the United States. Additionally, the cost of MPLS VPN access is significantly less than the cost of equivalent leased-line or ATM connections.

Cisco now benefits from four times the bandwidth at no extra cost. “There are no security issues because MPLS operates exactly the same way that a Frame Relay switch or an ATM switch operates,” says Andy Malis, chairman and president of the MPLS and Frame Relay Alliance.

An MPLS WAN solution improves performance for critical peer-to-peer applications such as voice and video. It also places most of the burden of capacity planning and circuit management on the VPN service provider, which enables a company to concentrate on other IT support issues.

Product quality improves significantly with testing on a production-level network.

Case Study: http://www.cisco.com/web/about/ciscoitwork/case_studies/routing_dl6.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

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