



Weetabix Keeps Its Network Up to Date and Flexible with Cisco ONE Software Solutions

Weetabix:

Size: 2,000 employees

Industry: Food processing

Location:

United Kingdom, North America

Solutions

- Integrates heterogeneous network environments and provides improved network security, mobility, and centralized management
- Simplifies the purchasing of software licenses and offers license portability between hardware generations, streamlining network upgrades and hardware refreshes

For More Information

For more information about Cisco ONE Software, visit: www.cisco.com/go/one/

Weetabix Ltd. is the United Kingdom's number-one-selling cereal, well known for its wheat-based cereal of the same name. It also owns popular brands, such as Alpen and Ready Brek, and exports its products to 80 countries.

Weetabix produces billions of breakfast biscuits every year at its factories in the United Kingdom and North America.

To keep manufacturing efficient as the company expands into Spain, Africa, and China, Weetabix needed a modern, more flexible network infrastructure.

Challenge: Modernizing Manufacturing

As a manufacturing company, Weetabix is very interested in the Internet of Things (IoT) and its potential to automate and modernize processes on the plant floor. However, a legacy network at its largest production site in Kettering presented a bottleneck. Comprising multiple vendors, the network was time consuming to maintain and difficult to integrate new technologies with it.

"We had no upgrade path and no investment protection, because there were so many different vendors and some of the

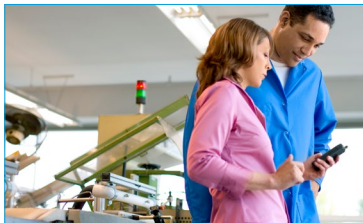
devices were so old," says Paul Mobbs, solutions architect and development manager for Weetabix. "That made it difficult for us to innovate and make manufacturing processes more efficient."

Weetabix wanted to converge its manufacturing network with its back-office network to gain a better view of the manufacturing floor, but this turned out to be impossible with the legacy equipment in place. "We couldn't integrate the two networks because we had very little visibility," says Mobbs. "We needed an infrastructure that would be simple, agile, and easy to keep up to date, because we didn't want to be in this position again."

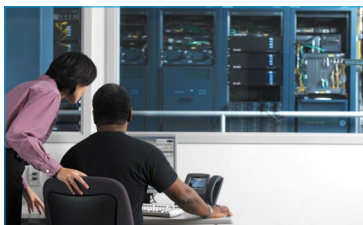
Future-Proofing the Plant Floor

After considering various solutions, Weetabix refreshed its network with Cisco® switches and wireless access points, extending its network onto the manufacturing floor. To protect its investment, Weetabix deployed Cisco ONE™ for Access, part of the Cisco ONE Software family. Using Cisco ONE Foundation for Wireless (and switching), the company can manage its entire access layer as a single, converged

*With Cisco ONE Software,
Weetabix:*



Opens up new opportunities for manufacturing innovation



Reduces TCO for network



Simplifies network and infrastructure software purchases

component. Licenses are portable between generations of hardware, eliminating the need to repurchase software when upgrading to new hardware.

“With Cisco ONE, we can keep our network up to date and plan for the future of manufacturing with the Internet of Things,” says Mobbs. “We can refresh our hardware faster and more cost-effectively.”

Enhancing Security and Service Quality

Cisco ONE Foundation also delivers additional software licenses that Weetabix needs, including tools for security, troubleshooting, and systems management. To enhance security and control network access, Weetabix integrated Cisco Identity Services Engine (ISE) with its Microsoft Active Directory. The company is using Cisco Prime™ Infrastructure and Cisco Mobility Services Engine—also part of Cisco ONE—to extend wireless networks to the plant floor while identifying any dead spots or interference, and plans to add mobile device management through Cisco ISE to gain visibility into personal mobile devices.

“The additional software licenses we get with Cisco ONE Foundation are a great value, and they are going to be absolutely vital as we integrate our manufacturing floors,” says Mobbs.

Reducing TOC

With Cisco ONE Foundation, costs can be amortized over the lifetime of the

software, helping Weetabix reduce capital expenditures for its network refresh. The software also includes energy management functionality to help reduce operating costs and Cisco Prime Infrastructure, saves management time a single-pane-of-glass view of the entire network.

“Because Cisco ONE includes Prime licenses, we were able to achieve centralized management at a very low cost,” says Mobbs. “Having one management system for wired and wireless networks is very efficient.”

When Mobbs made his presentation to his company’s board to justify the investment in the new network, he pointed out how Cisco ONE Foundation would help Weetabix support new applications and adopt efficiencies on the manufacturing floor.

“The combination of license portability and greater visibility into capital spending made a lot of sense to our board,” says Mobbs. “We were able to provide white papers on return on investment and total cost of ownership that really brought out the value of Cisco ONE.”

Supporting Ongoing Innovation

Cisco ONE Foundation access to ongoing innovation opens up more opportunities for Weetabix to be more innovative with its network and offer new services. “We can expand and update our network efficiently to keep up with business needs and advancements in manufacturing

Products and Services

Software

- Cisco ONE Foundation for Access Switching
- Cisco ONE Foundation for Access Wireless
- Cisco ONE Foundation for WAN

Wireless

- Cisco Mobility Services Engine
 - Cisco Wireless Access Points
- #### **Security**
- Cisco Identity Services Engine
- #### **Cloud and Systems Management**
- Cisco Prime Infrastructure

“With Cisco ONE, we will never again be locked in to outdated technology.”

Paul Mobbs
Solutions Architect and
Development Manager, Weetabix

technology,” says Mobbs. “With Cisco ONE, we will never again be locked in to outdated technology.”

What's Next?

Weetabix has deployed Cisco ONE Foundation to all five of its sites in the United Kingdom and plans to roll out the solution internationally using Cisco ONE Foundation for WAN, which will bring the same benefits to the company's global manufacturing facilities and branch offices.



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