



A modern-day network for city services

City of Biel upgrades Cisco® Enterprise Network for improved operational efficiency and future service offerings.

“The possibilities for growth on the Cisco platform are endless. There was no need for us to look any further.”

- Thomas Bodenmann, CTO, City of Biel

Two network engineers. Outsourced help. A network in need of upgrading taxes existing resources, leaving little time to foster opportunities for growth.

Challenges

- Replace network switches nearing end-of-life support
- Streamline network management for two full-time employees
- Provide scalable foundation for future service offerings

Managing a network in an old building with wire centers over three floors is challenging at the best of times. With two additional buildings running on a network infrastructure that hadn't been updated in years, the City of Biel's two full-time network engineers had their work cut out for them.

“We had to outsource resources to help maintain our network, but it was still very cumbersome to manage,” says Thomas Bodenmann, chief technical officer (CTO) for the City of Biel, Switzerland. “It could be difficult to keep up with current demands, let alone proactively address our stakeholders' future needs.”

The local government entity has 2400 employees across 60 locations, including 20 schools. With support for the aging equipment set to expire, the City of Biel needed a scalable, easy-to-manage network backbone to support current user requirements while laying the groundwork for future offerings.

Case Study | City of Biel

Size: 2,400 Employees, 55,000 Residents

Location: Biel, Switzerland

Industry: Government





Ease of management with Cisco Catalyst 6800 Series Switches and Catalyst Instant Access Solution

Solutions

- Built a scalable network based on Cisco Catalyst® and Nexus® Series Switches
- Streamlined maintenance with Cisco Catalyst Instant Access

Central point of management

The City of Biel's network engineers save time using Cisco Catalyst Instant Access to rapidly configure and deploy switches with a central switch. With fewer devices to manage and enhanced network resiliency, they have streamlined management and improved productivity.



Integrated connectivity

"We use Cisco technologies for nearly everything, from our VoIP phones and wireless controllers to Cisco ASR and Cisco UCS® in our data center," says Bodenmann. "We will continue to leverage our existing Cisco foundation in our future initiatives."

A future-proof foundation

With the ease of adding additional switches to the network backbone, the City of Biel can expand its service offerings. Biel has already provided network services to its ambulance division and is fielding additional requests for support. Over the long term, Biel plans to sell network services to other local entities.

Results

- Eliminated need for outsourced services, saving the equivalent of 0.5 full-time employees
- Saved time that can be used to proactively plan for delivery of future services

A powerful and flexible platform for enhanced service offerings

"We plan to implement Cisco ASR 920 Series Aggregation Services Router to push MPLS on a Layer 3 architecture," says Bodenmann. "Cisco's robust portfolio of solutions will help us reach the next level in the quality and responsiveness of our services."





Products & Services

Data Center

- Cisco UCS B-Series M4 Blade Servers

Routing and Switching

- Cisco Catalyst 6800 Series Switches
- Cisco Catalyst Virtual Switching System
- Cisco Catalyst Instant Access
- Cisco Nexus 5000 Series Switches
- Cisco Nexus 2000 Series Fabric Extenders

- Cisco aggregation services routers

Cisco Unified Communications

- Cisco IP Phone 7841

Wireless

- Cisco 5508 Wireless Controllers

Network Management and Security

- Cisco ASA Next Generation Firewall



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