

Making Life Easier at a Banking Sector Firm



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Customer Name: Bellevue Group (consisting of Bank am Bellevue AG and Bellevue Asset Management AG)

Industry: Banking

Location: Switzerland

Number of Employees: 86

Challenge

- Improve compliance
- Enhance services
- Cut complexity
- Have high availability

Solution

- Cisco Unified Data Center Architecture
- Cisco Collaboration
- Cisco Security
- Cisco Wireless

Results

- 50 percent cut in IT admin
- 25 percent rise in app performance
- 20 percent cut in IT costs, plus 20 percent less power
- Support for new services

Bellevue Group deals with one IT firm and halves its admin, with 20 percent less IT and power costs.

Challenge

In banking, to get growth you need good IT for fast, trouble-free trades. But the Bellevue Group's data center had grown for a long time with no planning. Hosted in-house, the data center had 25 rack servers with a range of operating and security systems.

This range led to an admin load and made it hard to comply with banking rules. The bank thought it was time to change when it needed to build a second site. Holger Schultes, head of IT, says: "A green-field second site would be somewhere to try new technologies."

Solution

Bellevue Group has a focus on corporate banking and asset management. It was already using Cisco® Nexus® Switches and Cisco TelePresence®. "We had a good experience with Nexus, and other Cisco projects were straightforward," says Schultes. "It made sense to consider Cisco servers, too."

Bellevue Group used FlexPods for its primary and secondary data centers, which run in active-active mode. A pre-validated data center system, FlexPod uses Cisco Nexus switching with Cisco Unified Computing System™ (UCS®) servers. "We chose FlexPod because the components run as a single, certified system," Schultes says.

Bank am Bellevue's core banking systems, which ran on a single machine before, now run on virtual servers. UCS also supports key applications such as Sungard Apsys, Sungard FrontArena and Microsoft applications.

Bellevue Group uses other, fully integrated collaboration tools. These include a Cisco Remote Expert Smart Solution, Cisco Jabber®, and Cisco WebEx®. Experienced Cisco Gold partner Netcloud installed the equipment.

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Holger Schultes

Head of IT, Bellevue Group

Results

Bellevue Group now only has to deal with one supplier. Cisco has helped the firm offer new, business-relevant services. It has a stable network with high levels of uptime. IT workloads have been cut by 50 percent. The time taken to make changes has fallen by 25 percent. Data center power use has dropped 20 percent.

“Life is much simpler,” Schultes says. “There’s less troubleshooting. Standard admin tasks are easier.”

Schultes also likes being able to keep tabs on his systems from any location. “As head of IT, I need to see how the infrastructure is working whether I am in the office or working remotely,” he says.

Core banking applications work better, by about 25 percent. Bellevue Group uses tools such as TelePresence and WebEx all the time for presentations to clients. This helps with staff productivity and efficiency, and customer intimacy and satisfaction. Service is better because systems are more reliable and brokerage orders are faster.

Also, network changes and upgrades are quicker. This is important because the firm’s round-the-clock operations make it challenging to take systems offline. “Having shorter change windows means our worldwide teams can work without interruption,” says Schultes. “This is a huge benefit.”

Next Steps

Bellevue Group is thinking of using Cisco UCS Invicta for faster computing and Cisco Identity Services Engine for better bring-your-own-device management.

For More Information

To learn more about the Cisco solutions featured in this case study, go to:

- <http://www.cisco.com/go/flexpod>
- <http://www.cisco.com/go/ucs>
- <http://www.cisco.com/go/nexus>
- <http://www.cisco.com/go/collaboration>
- <http://www.cisco.com/go/security>

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PRODUCT LIST

Data Center Solutions

- Cisco Unified Computing System (UCS)
 - Cisco UCS B200 M2 Blade Servers
 - Cisco UCS B200 M3 Blade Servers
 - Cisco UCS B250 M2 Blade Servers
 - Cisco UCS C220 M3 Rack-Mount Servers
 - Cisco UCS C240 M3 Rack-Mount Servers

Routing, Switching and Wireless

- Cisco Nexus 7000 Series Switches
- Cisco Catalyst 3750 Series Switches

Wireless

- Cisco Aironet 1142 Access Points

Fabric Interconnects

- Cisco UCS 6248UP Fabric Interconnects

Network Management

- Cisco 2500 Series Wireless Controllers
- Cisco Prime

Security and VPN

- Cisco ASA 5500-X Series Next-Generation Firewalls
- Cisco IronPort® S170Web Security Appliances
- Cisco Email Security Appliance C160

Collaboration

- Cisco Unified Communications Manager
- Cisco TelePresence
- Cisco Unified IP Phones
- Cisco Remote Expert Smart Solution
- Cisco Jabber
- Cisco WebEx

WAN Virtualization

- Cisco Wide Area Virtualization Engine 594
- Cisco Wide Area Virtualization Engine 294

Applications

- VMware vSphere
- Microsoft Hyper-V
- Microsoft Office Suite
- Citrix XenDesktop

Storage

- NetApp



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